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AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

A Must for Visitors & Relied On By Locals for 24 Years

June 2013

ANNUAL TOWNS & VILLAGES ISSUE

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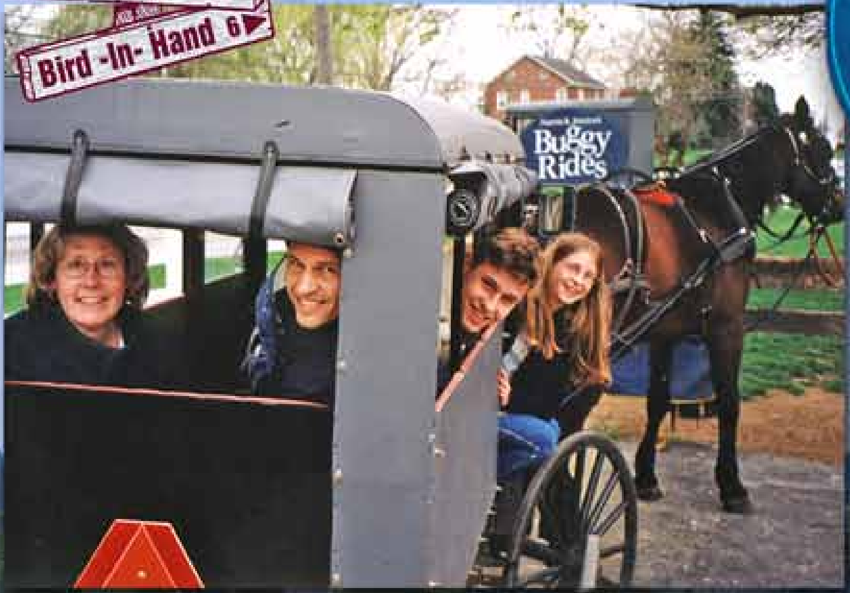
Aaron & Jessica's Bird-In-Hand Buggy Rides



See the World From a Buggy

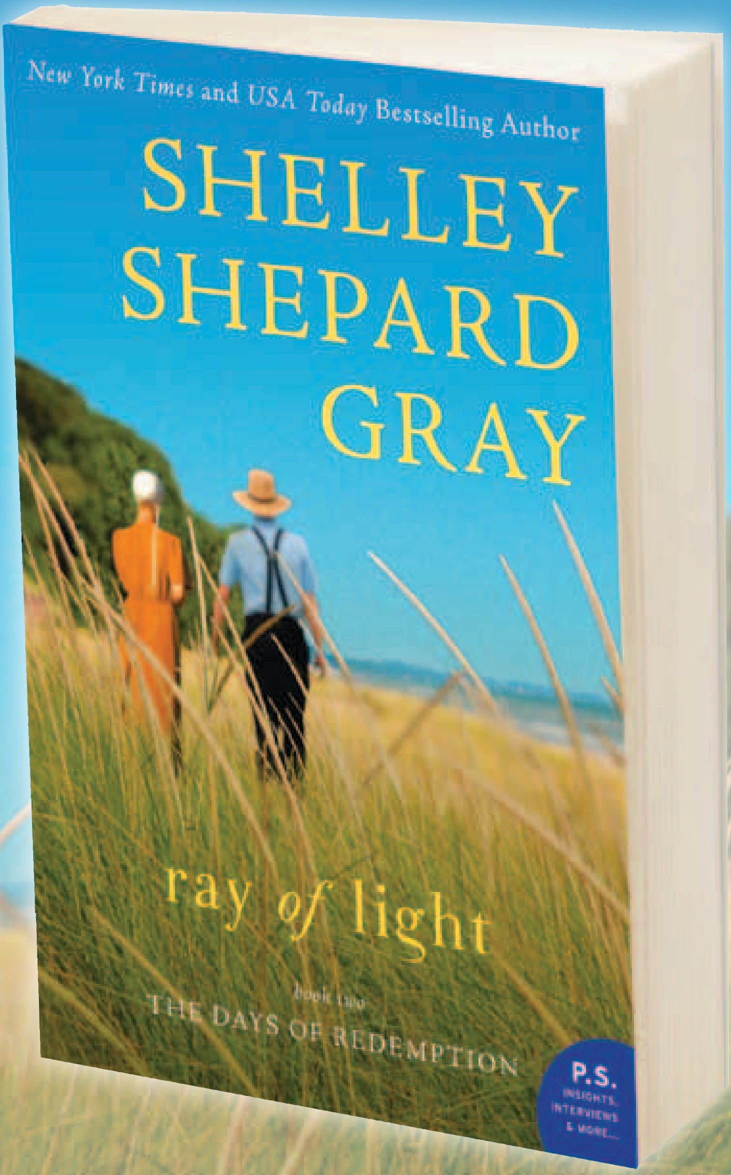
Is There A Mafia? New Amish Tour Sets The Record Straight

Lancaster County Comedy Show With Ryan & Friends

Summertime Shopping at Jake's Country Trading Post

From *New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestselling Author

SHELLEY SHEPARD GRAY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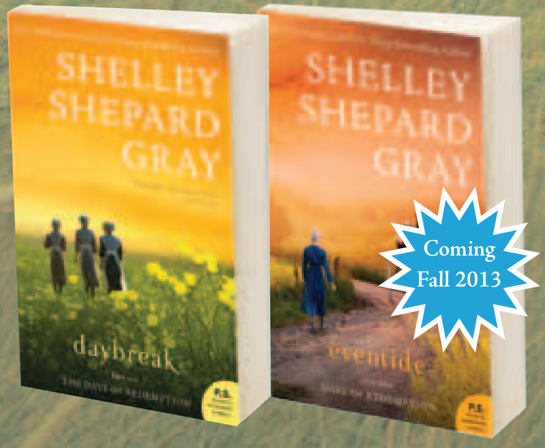

AVON INSPIRE

ShelleyShepardGray

DUTCH HAVEN LANCASTER COUNTY LANDMARK

While driving along Route 30 in Lancaster County, you may see a few unfamiliar, if not unique, sites. You may catch a glimpse of some folks dressed a little unusually. You'll probably see a few horse-drawn carriages instead of cars. And, you'll undoubtedly notice the Dutch Haven windmill. This landmark building has been drawing thousands of visitors each week to Lancaster County for the past 67 years. Opening first as a restaurant in 1946, the Dutch Haven operated with great success with a world famous Shoo Fly pie recipe.

Today, the Dutch Haven staple is still "America's Best Shoo Fly Pie." All you have to do is pass through the door and you will be offered a sample taste of this famous pie—warmed and topped with whipped cream, just like it was always served in the restaurant, years ago.

Some 40,000 pies will be sold at the Dutch Haven this year alone. While most of these shoo fly pies are purchased over the counter, some are shipped UPS. Many pies are sold to faithful customers who have been buying them from Dutch Haven for over half a century!

As always at Dutch Haven, the famous pie that was featured in Time magazine is just part of the story. The windmill building now houses one of, if not the best, selections of primitive Amish pine furniture in the area. Corner cupboards, pie safes, chests, and shelves are all available. Hundreds of pieces of Amish woodcrafts fill what once were the dining rooms of this wonderful old building. In addition, thousands of other items from pot holders to copper crafts, T-shirts, small wood crafts, a stunning selection of pottery, and much more make Dutch Haven a true shopping experience.

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Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week 9am-9pm. For more information about this Lancaster County landmark, call (717) 687-0111.

Visiting Dutch Haven - "the place that made Shoo Fly Pie famous" - will help to make your trip to Pennsylvania Dutch Country even more memorable.

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Jakey's Amish Barbeque

See the World from a Buggy?

by Clinton Martin

Aaron and Jessica will be happy to take you. Jessica? Well, she's the little girl who started it all. Her dad agreed to let her try her hand at giving buggy rides. She liked driving horses, and thought it would be fun to show the beautiful scenery and Amish farms to visitors. Aaron? You're probably thinking that must be Jessica's father. Nope. It isn't her brother either, although both help with the rides. Aaron was the most important ingredient in the buggy ride formula, because you just can't have a buggy ride without a horse. That's right, Aaron was Jessica's horse. Next? What to call the buggy ride business? After a big family meeting, Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides was born.

An All-Amish Area

As Jessica always says, "We know you came here more than anything to see and understand how and why we live the way we do. Take a ride with us. Let us tell you all about it, too. After all, we live here."

The buggy rides depart from the property of Plain & Fancy Farm, also the home of the Amish Experience. You'll see a little red covered bridge along the side of Route 340, exactly a mile and a half from either Bird-in-Hand or Intercourse. Completely surrounded by Amish farmland, visitors can enjoy one of several different routes. As Jessica's father says, "You don't pass one piece of ground that isn't farmed with a horse when you take a ride with us!"

There are at least seven different routes that are offered, with different sights, stops, lengths, and prices. You might use the coupon here for the basic tour, which is around 25 minutes and makes one brief stop on an Amish farm. No reservations are needed. Just pick your ride when you arrive.

Authentic Amish Carriages

Jessica likes to stress the non-commercial nature of the rides. "We can take you between the house and the barn on a real Amish farm, on private roads, with no cars. You see real Amish life. We absolutely offer you more!"

Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides generally operate 7 days a week, rain or shine, from dawn to dusk. (Well, actually, from around 9:00 a.m. The horses have to get breakfast before they go to work!). For more information, see the ad and coupon here, or visit the website at **AmishBuggyRides.com**.

Many of the drivers came from the area's Plain sects - Amish, Brethren, and Mennonites. Jessica's dad, who is one of the drivers at the ride, was three years old when he had his first recollection of a horse. He guesses he has driven a carriage more than anyone else in Lancaster County, about 10,000 miles a year.

Ride back in time, to an era before the car, train, or plane was ever imagined. Enjoy the beautiful countryside of Lancaster County with its immaculately kept Amish farms and gardens. Experience for yourself a taste of Amish Country life here. Choose from their most popular rides:

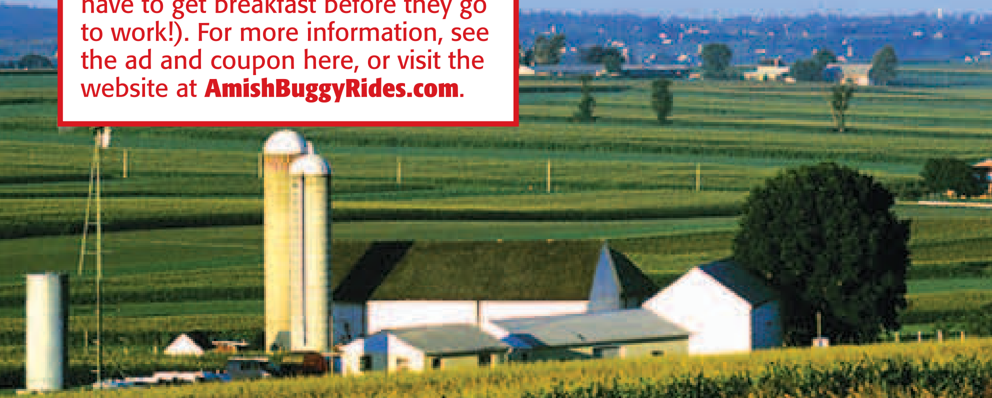
- **The "Cookie Run"**
  $10 per adult, $6 per child
  A 3 mile ride through an Amish farm, with a brief stop where you can purchase homemade drinks and cookies. See and feel the countryside. Rides takes 20-25 minutes.
- **The "Amish Town Tour"**
  $12 per adult, $6 per child
  A 4 mile tour passing an "Amish Village," businesses and an all-Amish farm area. Experience real Amish life on this 30-35 minute ride.
- **The "Amish Farm Tour"**
  $17 per adult, $11 per child
  Visit a Real Amish farm. Get off the buggy and tour the barn, see the cows and big Clydesdale horses. This is America the way it used to be. Tour takes 50-60 minutes.
- **The "Amish Journeys"**
  Ask for Individual or Group Rates
  Tour mile after mile of Amish farmland and pass by a water-powered flour mill. Included is a visit to an Amish store where you'll see farm animals and have the opportunity to buy homemade Amish bread, eggs, crafts and other items. Tour takes 75-90 minutes.

On your ride you can ask some of your horse questions. I was wondering why horses always seem to be bending a hind leg when they are standing still. The simple answer --- he's just resting a leg like we do when we lean on something and cross our legs.

The ride is air-conditioned. You'll be more than comfortable with the open buggy and the breeze. Jessica says, "In the summer, it's a great way to cool off. My dad says it's like sitting in the shade with the fan on... 409 air-conditioning... four wheels turning at nine miles an hour!"

Ride Through the Covered Bridge

All of the buggy rides pass through a miniature covered bridge. Kids love buggy rides, and so this is a perfect activity for the entire family. As one visitor from Long Island said, "This is our fifth time here this year. We love it here. Since my son woke up this morning Aaron & Jessica's is all I've heard." So, if your kids are driving you buggy, let Aaron & Jessica take over the reins for a while! Look for the little covered bridge along Route 340 at Plain & Fancy Farm, midway between Intercourse and Bird-in-Hand.



Open All Year See The World Rain or Shine
From a Buggy

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Cameras welcome.

$2 OFF "The Cookie Run" Ride, an Amish Wagon Ride to an Amish farm where you can purchase homemade treats. Cannot be combined with other offers.

Celtic Fling & Highland Games - An Unbridled Celebration of Celtic Culture

by Clinton Martin

This festival of festivals takes place June 21, 22, and 23 on the royal grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire north of Manheim. 2013 marks the 15th annual "Fling" and it just seems to be getting bigger and better every year. Come prepared to celebrate the music, dance, foods, traditions, and cultures of Ireland, Scotland and all the Celtic nations taking place from end to end of the 35 acre Faire grounds.

Where else will you find a music festival, a dance competition, a sporting event, a cultural celebration, a food fest, and an arts and crafts show all in one? The festival runs 11am to 10pm Saturday and Sunday, with both days concluding with an end of day party on the massive Globe Stage where the dozens of musical performers come together for a rollicking Celtic jam fest.

The awesome, not-to-be-missed Friday night kick-off concert begins at 5:30pm. Who's headlining the Friday Night Concert? None other than the number one Celtic folk-rock band in the entire country, and maybe the entire world, Gaelic Storm! Tickets for this concert are limited. I've already got mine and suggest you don't wait long to get yours.

Continued on Page 7

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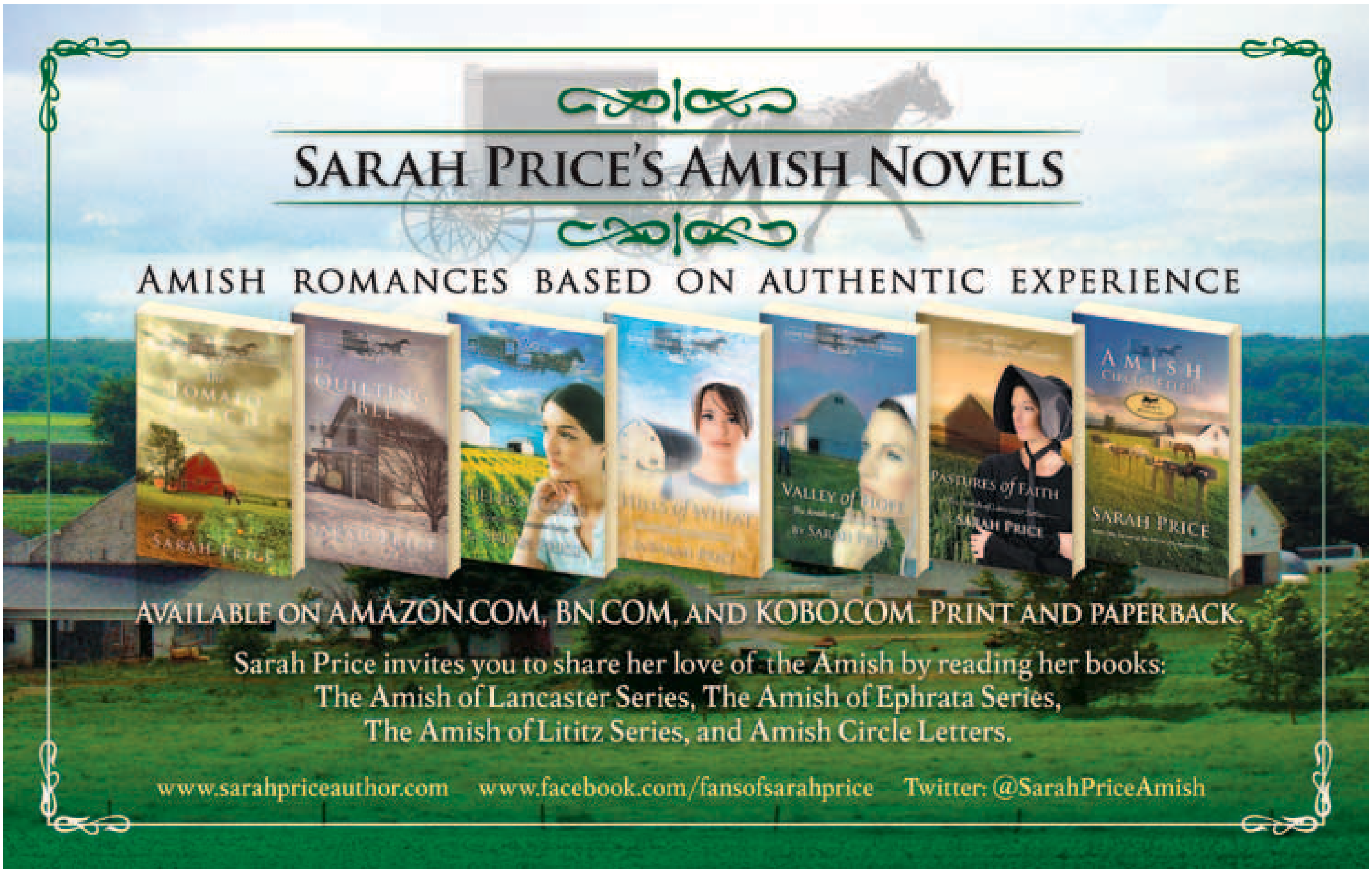

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Cute and Cuddly...Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet is the Mega-Store for Little Ones

by Clinton Martin

People visit Amish Country for many reasons, but for anyone with a love affair or any degree of fascination with dolls, a stop at Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet is an absolute must. With over 5,000 dolls in stock, Aimee & Daria's is the largest doll shop within 1,000 miles! Best of all, A and D is welcoming not just to collectors but to anyone looking for an all-around play dolly for any occasion.

With prices ranging from $2 to $2,500 and up, and sizes of 2" to over 42" tall, there is quite literally a doll for anyone at Aimee & Daria's. The store's shelves and displays hold dolls from many different manufacturers, although one in particular has become a customer favorite over the past 20 years.

That would be Berenguer, a company founded in Spain over 50 years ago by a Mr. Jose Berenguer. Now under the leadership of his son Salvador, these dolls have risen to international prominence. One look at the masterful quality and craftsmanship, not to mention the uncanny ability to capture the essence of a child's beauty and innocence tells the whole story. Salvador visits Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet at least once a year to share details about his work, sign dolls purchased at the shop, and to provide sneak peeks at upcoming doll designs.

Call for details on the next Berenguer event at 717-687-8118, or just stop in at the store on Route 30 at 2682 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster. It is quite the experience!

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Gettysburg, PA 17325 • **717.398.2717**

Celtic Fling & Highland Games

(Continued from Page 5)

A Music Fest for the Ages

Over 15 musical groups will be performing non-stop across a dozen different stages throughout each day Saturday and Sunday, providing a wide range of styles from traditional pipe bands to modern Celtic rock groups, and just about anything in between.

Irish Dance Extravaganza

Saturday, June 22 features the ninth annual Celtic Fling Feis Competition, showcasing the talents of up to 1,000 competitors including girls, boys, women, and men ranging in ability from beginner to champion. Competitions include traditional hard shoe and elegant soft shoe jigs that have captivated audiences for centuries. The Celtic Fling Feis, officially sanctioned by the North American Feis Commission, is the only Feis in Central PA.

Athletics Scottish Style

The Celtic Fling's Highland Games, officially sanctioned by the Mid-Atlantic Scottish Athletics Association, add to the thrill of the festival. Events include the Scottish Hammer, the Sheaf Toss, the Clachneart or "Stone of Strength," and the impressive Caber Toss where an 18-foot tree trunk weighing 150 pounds is tossed, hopefully, end over end.

Continued on Page 22

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300
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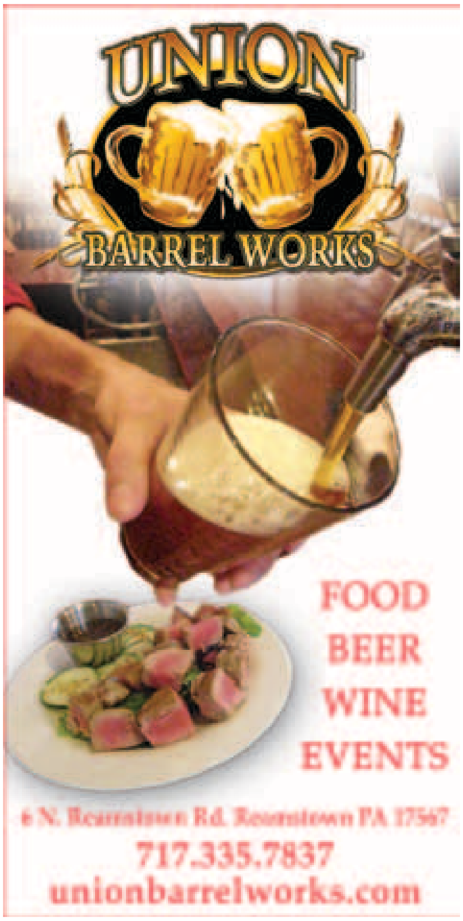
Shop A Lot...Then Boast a Little at Sam's Man Cave

by Clinton Martin

There are many reasons why Sam's Man Cave can legitimately brag a bit, and you will too after spending some time browsing the "Store Made For Men". With the largest selection of "breweriana" in Amish Country, and perhaps the whole East Coast, you can imagine the chests being puffed! But this isn't about Sam; it's about you guys, because the perfect prescription for the common Man-Cave-In-Progress awaits when you walk through the doors at Sam's.

And, you can prove to all your friends that you found that fascinating one-of-a-kind piece at Sam's Man Cave. Just take a photo of your trophy as it sits in your den and post it on Sam's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SamsManCave). The "E-Polaroid Prize" will be published for all to see in Sam's Bragging Corner.

Sam's Man Cave stocks steins, posters, tins, tap handles, collectibles of all sorts, neons, coasters, bottle openers, t-shirts, and even inflatables. Gentlemen, you've just got to see this place. How? Stop by 2207 Lincoln Highway East (Route 30), right across from Tanger Outlets. Call 717-394-6404 for hours.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As the Beer Pours, the Food Simmers…A Foodie's Find at the Union Barrel Works

by Clinton Martin

On choosing Craft Beer and Gourmet Food in Amish Country...there are many opinions and recommendations where the discriminating gourmet might score a flavorful, interesting, and generally memorable meal. As for you, dear reader, you're in good hands, as AMISH COUNTRY NEWS loves all things from scratch-made PA Dutch vittles to white-tablecloth fine dining.

As it turns out, when craft beer and equally artisan foods are in play, there is one sure path for foodies to point their gastronomical compasses. Union Barrel Works, slightly outside the usual tourist circuits, sits grandly on the square in Reamstown. Perhaps more helpful for those in need of directions, the brick walls, original tin ceilings, and old-growth hardwood maple floors that house this champion of lagers, ales and creative cuisine sits just off Route 272 between Ephrata and Adamstown. Heading south on Church Street at the light almost exactly halfway between the two is the easiest way to get there.

Having arrived, you won't be eager to leave, that is until you've had your fill of fine foods and silky UBW beers. (A local winery has been engaged to provide liquid libations for those culinary explorers not into the hops and malt category.) Call 717-335-7837 for hours and reservations, or scope out your visit to UBW at UnionBarrelWorks.com.

Pulling a draft at Union Barrel Works.

Make Your Summer Plans at the Strasburg Rail Road

Special to Amish Country News

Strasburg Rail Road is pleased to offer intrigue, wonder and adventure with the all-new Summer Fun Pass, a value-packed ticket option for individuals and families who want more bang for their buck! The Summer Fun Pass is valid from May 25 – Sept. 2, 2013, and includes unlimited steam train rides to Paradise, PA, and fun extra rides.

At just $35 per person for ages 3 and older, this pass will pay for itself in three visits, one of the best offerings from Lancaster County attractions. The Summer Fun Pass admission option also includes a 10% retail discount at the Strasburg Rail Road gift shops and access to member-only specials throughout the season.

When visiting the Rail Road this summer, visitors will enjoy many enhancements around the station including the extended Pint-Sized Pufferbelly miniature steam train ride and the kid's play area (a.k.a. the parent's relaxing area with wifi!).

Strasburg Rail Road's Trackside Café is also recently renovated, with new menu offerings.

Families can either grab a bite to eat at the station, ride on the Dining Car, or pack a lunch and disembark at Groff's Grove (a picnic and play area) or the Leaman Place Grove (a second picnic area), coming soon at the end of the tracks.

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Amish Country's Small Towns – Diamonds in the Rough

by Brad Igou

Those of us who live in Amish Country think of our home as composed of many small towns and villages which dot the farmland surrounding the city of Lancaster. Downtown Lancaster is itself a relatively small but pedestrian-friendly city filled with history, wonderful architecture, unusual shops and boutiques, and a vibrant arts scene supported by both local residents and nearby colleges.

While some of our towns are known for their names, including Bird-in-Hand, Intercourse, and Blue Ball to name a few, others are less familiar to visitors. This got me thinking, "What makes a small town great?" America's best small town lists appear periodically in magazines and, like any list of this kind, are largely subjective. Still, I was curious if there were some recurring qualifications for becoming a "best".

I came across a website that clearly stated the criteria for their choices of "small town gems." Since their focus was on small towns making superior travel destinations, I was especially interested. I also liked their approach… "We walk the streets in the downtown district and bicycle outlying residential areas, taking dozens of photographs along the way." That paralleled my feeling that a town should be small enough that one can enjoy and discover largely on foot.

The website notes that larger destinations have marketing budgets and instantly recognizable attractions with which they are identified. What comes to your mind if I mention New York City, or San Francisco, or Orlando? These are huge, international tourist destinations with major attractions.

But the writers at this website rightly note that "there is a hidden beauty in America that is unknown to most residents… the architectural, historic and nostalgic treasures of beautiful small towns throughout the United States. Many of these lovely travel destinations remain unknown

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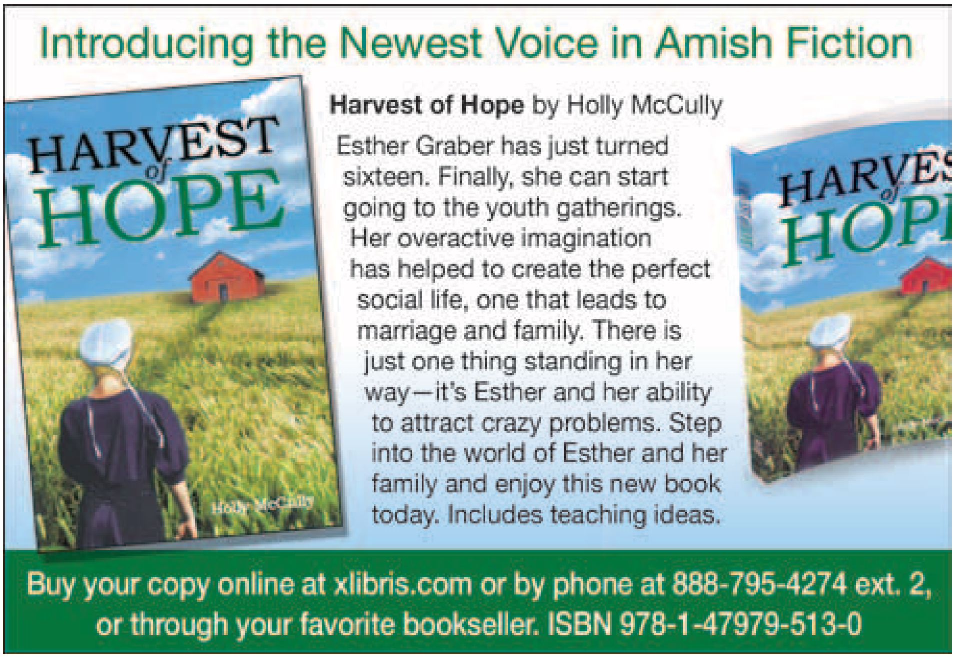
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Hershey PA – Made Famous by Chocolate

by Clinton Martin

For those of us who live here, Hershey is always a fun place to visit, and of course, it's ChocolateTown for us too. Most visitors, and there are millions of them each year, know that Hershey is synonymous with chocolate. It's not surprising for them to see the main streets named Cocoa and Chocolate Avenues and look up at the streetlights in the shape of Hershey Kisses. Hershey's Chocolate was founded by the world-famous candy entrepreneur Milton S. Hershey, and so was his town.

With the success of his chocolate company, in the early 1900s Mr. Hershey created a planned community with streets lined by trees, connected to public water, sewer, and electricity, and outfitted with telephone lines and trolley routes. A theater, library and amusement park were built for the community, which mainly consisted of Hershey factory employees. Today, that same amusement park, greatly expanded, is the famous Hersheypark, a world-class attraction for thrills and spills.

Milton S. Hershey also used his chocolate-fueled fortune to create a world-famous school for orphan children that to this day remains one of the great examples of American philanthropy. In 1910 Milton and Catherine Hershey started their school with four orphan boys. (They had no children of their own.) In 1918, Hershey left his entire personal fortune to the school, making headlines in the New York Times. The statue dedicated to him in the school's Founders Hall reads, "His deeds are his monument. His life is our inspiration."

When visiting Hershey, you obviously can't miss doing something "chocolaty." Your visit to Hershey's Chocolate World begins with a "factory tour" unlike anything you've ever seen. Chocolate World is free, as is the free chocolate tour ride, which even includes a free sample at the end. For the more "epicurean" fan of chocolate there are gourmet-tasting attractions available for a nominal fee, create your own candy bar stations for the kids, and even a new 4D Show.

Nearby you'll also find another Hershey must-see. The Antique Auto Museum of Hershey sits atop a hill, overlooking Hershey's famous amusement park. What you'll find inside is a mammoth and awe-inspiring collection of what America loves almost as much as chocolate – the style and grace of its gorgeous automobiles. Of course you'll see antique gems and glittering sports cars, but other forms of automotive excellence are also on display, including the museum of bus transportation, which showcases those great people-movers of American history.

They say Hershey is the "Sweetest Place on Earth." Who are we to argue?

Plenty of Muscle is always on display at the museum, such as this 1969 Chevy Camaro

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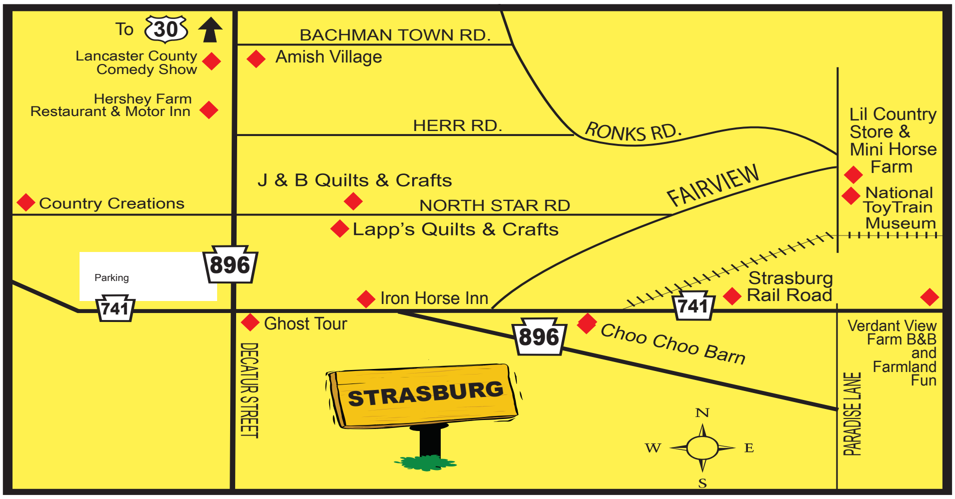
Strasburg - A Town of Trains & Heritage



All aboard! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few --- the Strasburg Rail Road, Living Waters Theatre, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, Cherry Crest Adventure Farm, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town."

Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillion, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.

Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River.

As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the SRR had reached the end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town!

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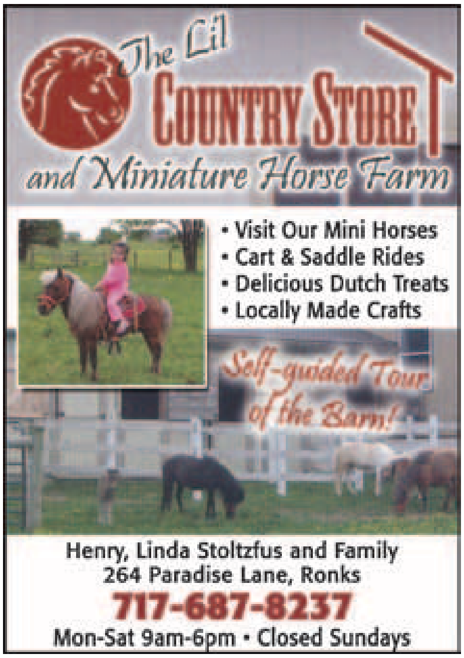
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Amish Country's Small Towns

(Continued from Page 10)

because small municipalities lack the financial resources to advertise their towns."

I also noted they defined "small town" as having a population of 10,000 or less, with many having only two to three thousand year-round residents.

Now, the distinctive characteristics. They employ adjectives like "historic, small, quaint, charming, romantic," and use phrases like "a step back in time" or "picture postcard." Historic districts, attractive store fronts, interesting shops, and bed and breakfast lodging also came into play. It was noted that some of the towns they chose have been used as Hollywood film locations.

I especially liked their list of six "emotional tests" a town should pass when you visit:

1. *Does this town remind you of a Currier and Ives print?*
2. *Do you think to yourself "I can't wait to tell my friends about this place?"*
3. *Do you wonder if there is enough capacity in your camera?*
4. *Is this place similar to the town where your grandmother was raised?*
5. *Could this be the great retirement location you've been searching for?*
6. *Wouldn't this be a safe, wholesome place to raise children?*

The Small Town Gems website also had a more detailed list of specific criteria. I will not include all of them, but rather give you a sampling of this long list: distinctive architecture, part of the downtown has been designated a state or national historic district, an abundance of stone or brick buildings, pedestrian/bicyclist friendly, wide sidewalks with frequently-spaced

Continued on Page 14

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Amish Country's Small Towns

(Continued from Page 13)

shaded benches, art galleries, antique stores, and specialty boutiques, bed-and-breakfast lodging, usually in Victorian or Bungalow-style housing, gourmet coffee shops and bakery, ice cream parlor and confectionery shops, unusual scenery nearby, vintage train station with antique locomotive, caboose and passenger cars offering excursion rides, iron or covered bridges, and tourist trolley buses and horse-drawn carriages.

The writers have thus crafted the requirements for their small town list around places best suited for weekend getaways, temporary relaxation, a romantic interlude, or satisfying wanderlust. They note simply that "instead of sociological statistics, our recommendations of small towns are based on the five physical senses (what you can see, smell, hear, taste and touch), a sense of nostalgia and romance, a sense of security (it feels safe to wander about), a sense of curiosity (the desire to explore), and the most intangible --- a sense of home."

Some Amish Country towns are clearly identified with specific attractions or interests, yet also have that special "sense of place." The village of Intercourse has its many quaint shops, all easily accessed on foot. Amish buggies mingle with cars on Main Street as surrounding farmers and their families shop alongside visitors.

Strasburg may be best known for trains both large and small, but those who explore a bit more will also find worthy eating, shopping, delightful miniature golf, wonderful historic homes, and nearby covered bridges.

Lititz has actually received the designation of the "Coolest Small Town in America," by Budget Travel. Its Main Street with its eclectic shops, a fascinating history with its Moravian roots, America's oldest pretzel bakery, plus the sweet smell of chocolate all undeniably make for a cool town. Community involvement is seen in the town's throwback events, from this month's Crafts in the Park to the famous Fourth of July Celebration in the Park.

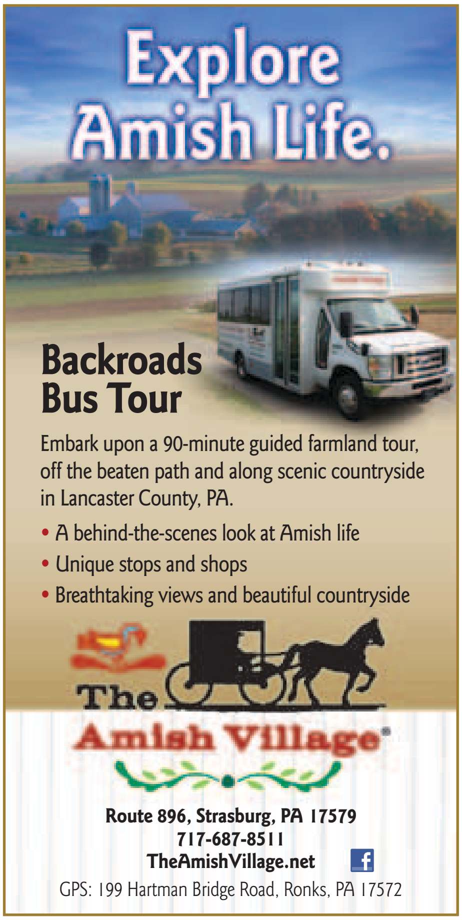
Sprinkled about this issue are wonderful places I suggest you visit and things to explore and linger over while you're there.

Animation, Action and Model-Railroading at its Best - Visit the Choo Choo Barn

by Clinton Martin

In one of the largest, hand-built model train displays in America, the Choo Choo Barn features more than 150 animations and 22 operating trains throughout an impressive 1,700 square foot handcrafted model train display. This work-of-art is packed with action as it details in miniature the many familiar landmarks and scenes Lancaster County has to offer. From a parade to a circus, a baseball game to Dutch Wonderland, there is so much to see!

Continued on Page 16



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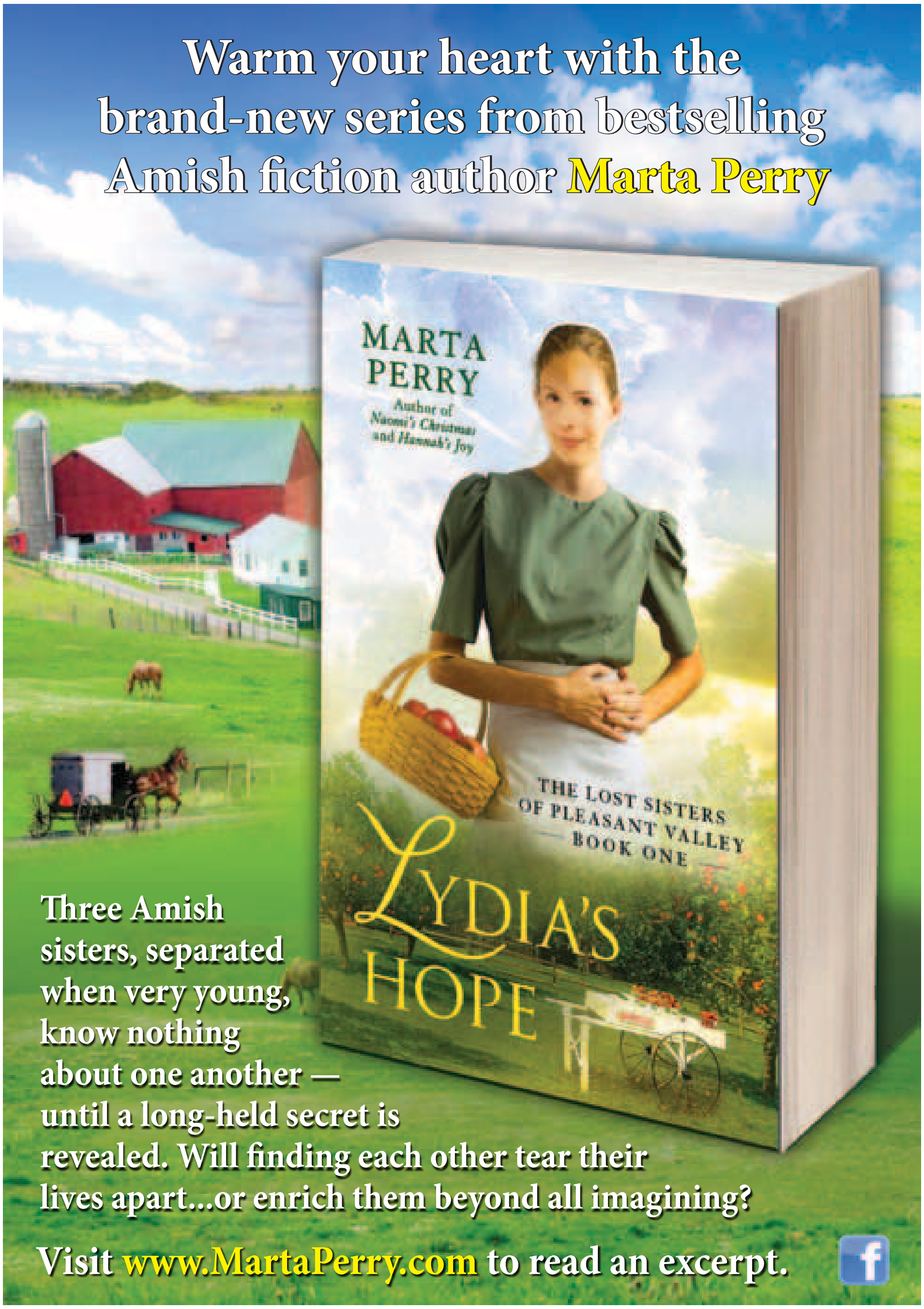
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Choo Choo Barn

(Continued from Page 15)

Dating back to 1961 with the Groff family, the Choo Choo Barn is now under the creative direction of Tom Groff, the founder's son. Tom has spent decades perfecting his craft of hand-building scenes and animations. Kids of all ages are continuously filled with wonder when a miniature house catches fire and, as the local fire department rushes to the scene, a tiny fireman uses real water to extinguish the fire, while others rescue the people. Truly, there's something to amaze, even astonish, everyone.

During your visit, be sure to visit the Strasburg Train Shop as well, a model railroading hobby shop designed to help you create the model railroad of your dreams!

The Choo Choo Barn is open daily from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. from March 9 to Dec. 31, 2013. Admission is $7.00 for adults and $4 for children ages 3-11. For more information or to plan your visit, call 717-687-7911 or visit. choochoobarn.com.

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Flory's Campground... Where the Amish Are Your Neighbors

by Clinton Martin

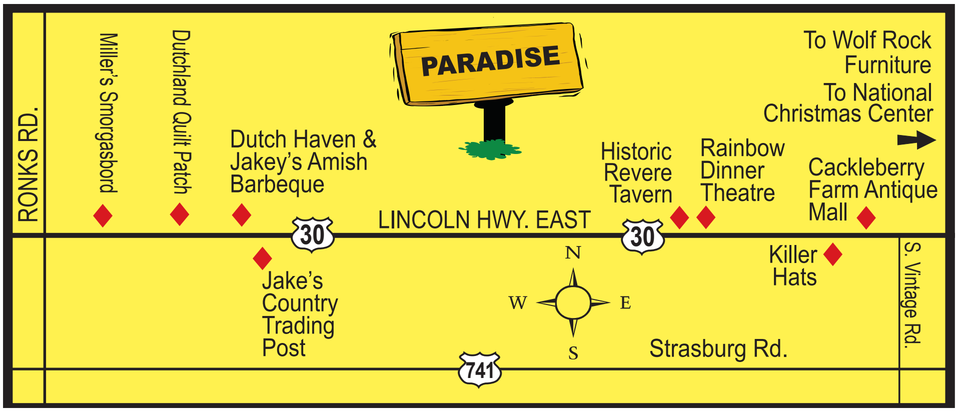
Flory's campground, bordered on two sides by Amish farms, is as picturesque as it gets, guaranteeing the quiet country setting sought by so many visitors.

Flory's offers one of the best ways to "rub elbows" with the Amish without feeling like you're intruding. As one visitor put it... you can sit out on your cottage's porch with a glass of local wine or a cup of coffee and a slice of shoo-fly pie, fully content, and wave as your Amish neighbors go by.

Campsite rates start at less than $40 a night, with discounts for longer stays. A game room, activities pavilion, playground, optional Wi-Fi and Cable TV are all available as part of the many basic amenities. The location on Ronks Road couldn't be better, between RT 30 and 340, just a short drive from Amish Country's most popular towns and attractions.

Book your stay at Flory's by calling 717-687-6670.

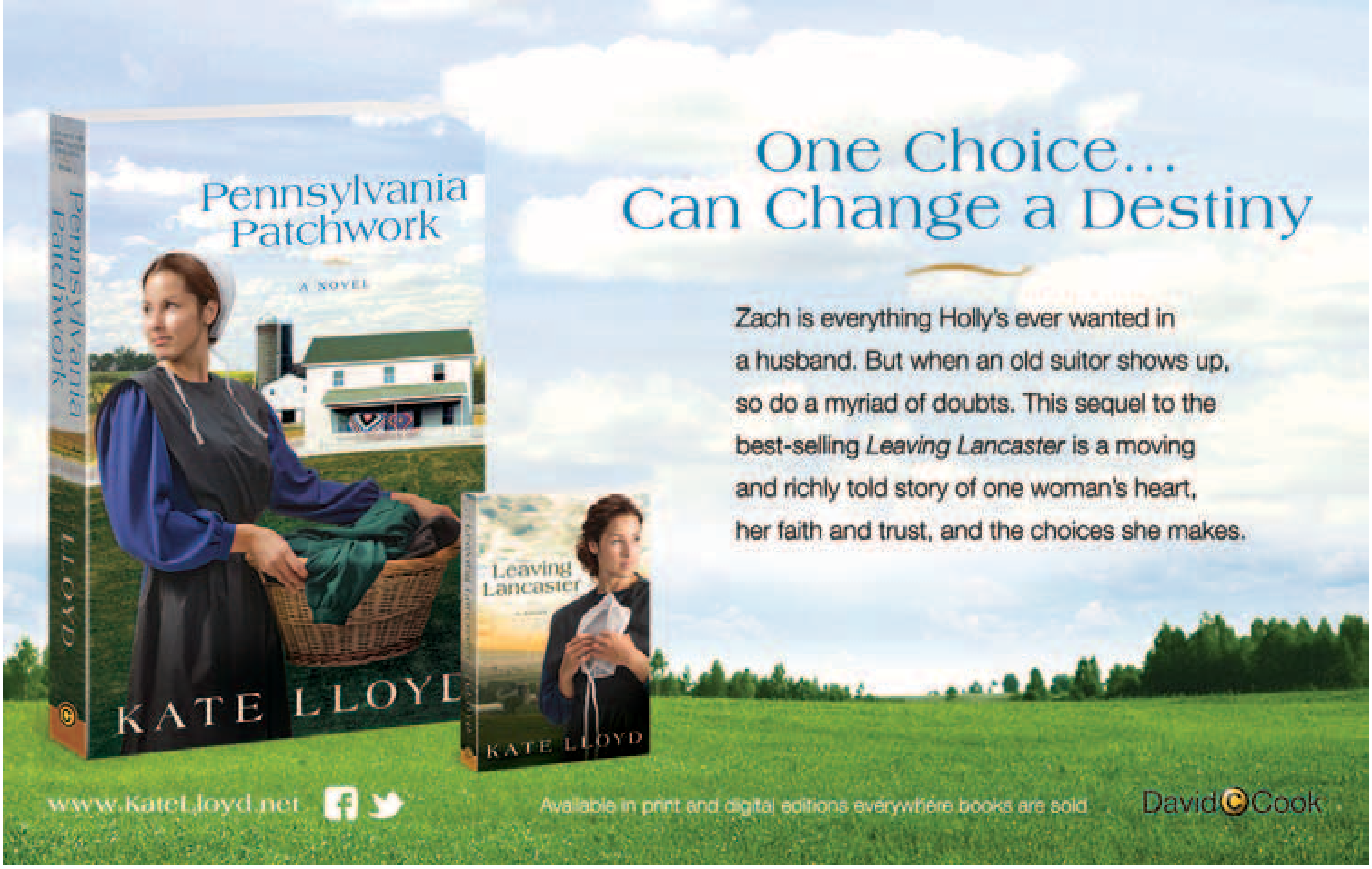
Welcome to Our Paradise



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on RT 30 travel through Paradise, which celebrated its 300th anniversary in 2012. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of RT 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The first road that was constructed is now RT 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike." Soon, it was apparent that this road was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created. Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike").

The Act described the construction of the highway, which was to be a bed of small crushed stones on top with, rather than dirt, larger stones underneath to prevent carriage wheels from cutting into the soil. This revolutionary system of road construction is credited to a John McAdam, whose name became the term for paved or "macadam" roads. The "Lincoln Highway" (RT 30) opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle", still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Oh, Susanna." Wherever you happen to call "paradise," we hope that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm!



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Jake's Country Trading Post Might Just Be America's Favorite Country Store

by Clinton Martin

People from all over the world visit Amish Country, and an amazing number have been shopping at Jake's Country Trading Post for years. One visit and you'll see why! Talk to the owners, Ed and Melissa Jackson, and hear how what started out as a small road-side shop along Route 30 in Paradise has grown to today's multi-building, multi-level, must-see shopping destination.

Clothing, collectibles, signs, tins, decorations, sports merchandise, candles, scents, footwear... it's all at Jake's. I find the selection at Jake's unique among Amish Country stores in that both men and women find it equally appealing. To describe Jake's many lines of merchandise wouldn't work in the space I have to write, so to highlight a few of the most popular…

Park Designs – Jake's has been carrying Park for over 10 years, and the Park linens have grown from a few pairs of curtains and placemats to a section of four huge rows all dedicated to Park's textile selections. At least 50 styles are available in a variety of items including placemats, napkins, tablecloths, dishtowels, table runners, potholders, rugs, valances, panels, tiers, shower curtains and much more. Park comes in plaids, stripes, embroidered, and printed designs, all perfect for home decorating.

Donna Sharp – I've learned that the Donna Sharp premier line of beautiful and expertly crafted quilted purses has become fabulously popular. Each season brings new designs and styles. Styles are regularly retired and you are advised to purchase what catches your eye, as it may not be around for long.

Victorian Heart's Bella Taylor Collection – Here is another line of quilted purses that represents a uniquely different style. It is one of the fastest growing handbag brands for Jake's, and the quilted patchwork pieces are available in a variety of sizes from wallets to overnight bags, and have quickly become true customer favorites.

Candles – Jake's has had its own private label highly scented candles since opening its doors in 1996. In addition to Jake's Candles, Swan Creek, Thompson's Candles, and Yankee Candles are also available in countless scents.

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Flags – Jake’s carries several lines of standard flags, garden flags, mailbox covers, and yard art. Selections change according to the season. Whether the collection is from Custom Décor, Magnet Works, Evergreen, or Premier, Jake’s is likely to have what you're looking for in stock.

Clothing & Moccasins – Jake’s assortment of T-shirts, PJ’s, socks, and moccasins is vast and very cool. The Minnetonka Moccasin collection offers attractive fits for the whole family. The Mountain Corp has a variety of silk screened prints depicting wildlife, Native American, and woodsy designs. One of my favorite brands is Lazy One, all about keeping folks warm and fuzzy from super comfy PJ’s to cozy slipper socks - all served with a hearty dose of humor.

Sports Items, Tins Signs & Lodge Items - Ladies bring your men - they'll be content while you're off shopping for yourself and you'll be able to take as long as you need! All the sports teams are represented. The tin sign collection is especially fun including pieces ranging from automobile, nostalgic, whimsical, outdoor, sports, Harley and many more. The woodsy collection features knives, wildlife items, resin frames, and lots more that strikes the fancy of guys who enjoy the great outdoors.

Collectibles – Jake’s carries collectibles, too. Jim Shore has been a long-time favorite with shoppers of the internationally recognized Santas and other iconic Christmas figures. Willow Tree is another popular line collectors everywhere will be glad to feast their eyes on.

Pay Jake's a visit. It wouldn't be a stretch at all for it to become your new favorite Amish Country shop. Open seven days a week, Jake's is located two miles east of the outlets on Route 30. Call 717-687-8980 or spend some time browsing SuperJakes.com. For GPS directions, use 2954 Lincoln Highway East, Gordonville PA.

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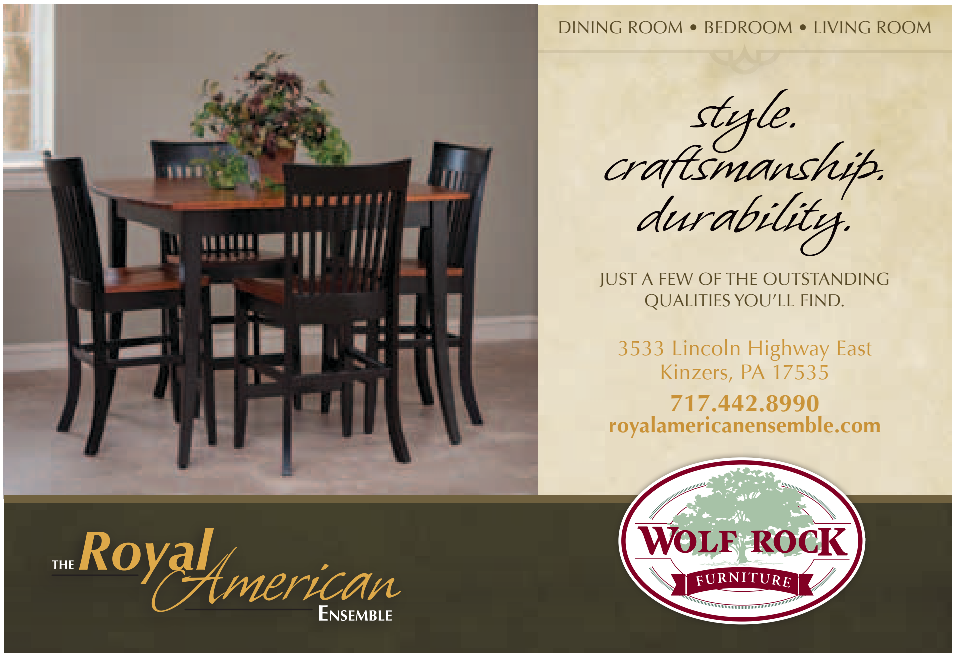

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Celtic Fling & Highland Games

(Continued from Page 7)

The Grace of Tradition

The Fling showcases Celtic history with great pride, culture and tradition. Historians, storytellers, re-enactors and traditional Celtic musicians fill the grounds both days. A gathering of the Clans offers the chance to explore clan histories and become familiar with the worthwhile missions the clans and societies maintain.

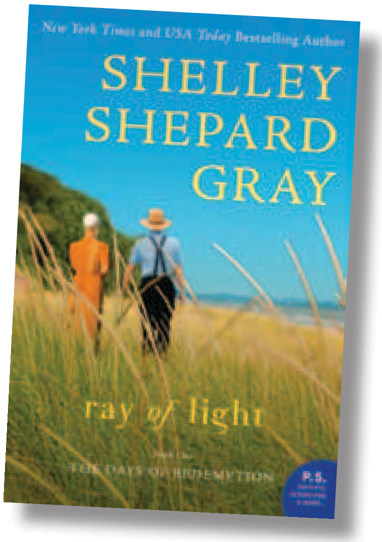
Arts, Crafts, Foods, and More

The Celtic Fling features a cornucopia of authentic Celtic foods. Over twenty-three festival kitchens serve up a wide variety of dishes including Corned Beef and Cabbage, Shepherd's Pie, Fish 'n' Chips, and the always popular Scotch Egg.

Quench your thirst with a variety of handcrafted ales by Swashbuckler Brewery, the micro-brewery on the festival grounds. Those who prefer wine will find a variety of Mount Hope Wines, also Faire produced, for both sampling and sale.

That the Fling is home to scores of artisans and merchants selling goods from across the seas and hand-crafted here using age-old practices makes the day yet more fascinating.

Whether you take the high road or the low road, be sure to end up at the Celtic Fling and Highland Games. I make few guarantees editorially. But, I'm not even sticking my neck out when I assure you that it will be well worth the trip. Remember, the Friday Night Concert is ticketed separately and one, or money-saving two day passes are available for Saturday and Sunday. Advance tickets and far more details will be found at PaRenFaire.com or by calling (717) 665-7021.



When two hearts connect on a beach in Florida, is it a brief romance . . . or the start of a lasting love?

Shupp's Grove – the Amish Country Home of Antique Dealers

by Clinton Martin

In northern Lancaster County, just off PA Turnpike Exit 286, the small but mighty community of Adamstown is not only Amish Country's most famous destination for antiques and collectibles, it is quite possibly the Country's most famous with the well-earned title of "Antiques Capital USA."

It all started when local dealer Charles Weik began hosting flea markets in 1962 with antiques nestled among a thicket of trees called Shupp's Grove. The not-so-little-anymore grove has been luring antique treasure hunters ever since.

Today, Shupp's Grove is open Saturdays and Sundays. Admission and parking are always free. Each weekend has a theme, which helps guide and inspire both dealers and buyers. But, as a frequent visitor, I can tell you that a trip any weekend definitely will turn up fascinating finds.

Take RT 897 south off RT 272 in Adamstown. Look for the signs. Shupp's will be less than a mile off to the left. For further details visit ShuppsGrove.com or call 717-484-4115.

241

Number of "Excellent" TripAdvisor ratings for Hershey Farm & Restaurant & Smorgasbord

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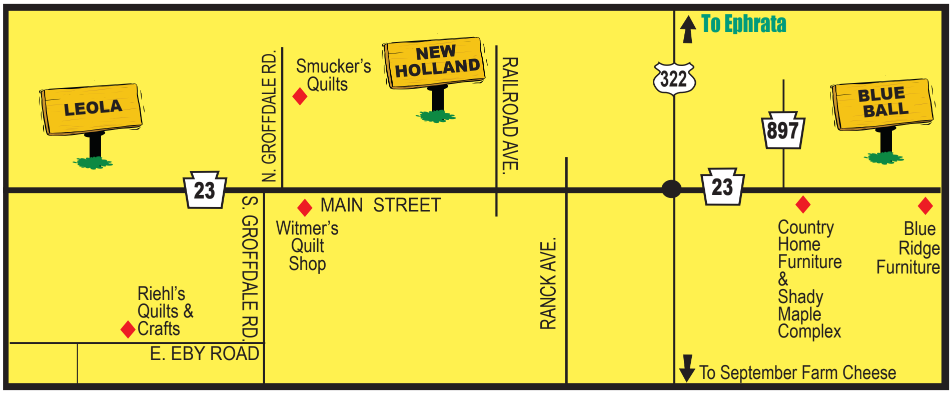
Welcome to New Holland • Blue Ball



The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania — 60 miles inland from Philadelphia. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found listening ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres. (At today's rate exchange, this would be less than $.04 an acre). By the year 1702, a goodly number of Palatinates had immigrated to Pennsylvania, and Queen Anne, newly reigning in England, was delighted that Penn was colonizing his immense grant without drawing off the population of Britain.

The area today called New Holland was practically covered by virgin forests—sturdy timbers of oak, ash, chestnut, and walnut. By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland.

These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, and the assistance that included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.

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Spectacular Musical "CATS" On Stage Now at Dutch Apple

by Clinton Martin

If you know any show-tunes at all you probably know at least one from CATS, one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's most famous musical creations. The dance moves are wild and whimsical, the costumes cool and colorful, and the music is toe-tapping and irresistible. In short, CATS celebrates the very traits and characteristics of our feline friends – and has been doing so well before kitties became the Internet's "viral" darlings.

Families visiting Amish Country can enjoy this wonderful musical through June 29th at Dutch Apple Dinner Theater. Call 717-898-1900 or visit DutchApple.com for show times and tickets. Dutch Apple Dinner Theater is located on Centerville Road, just off Route 30 west of Lancaster. Take the Centerville Road exit off Route 30, and turn right at the top of the ramp. Dutch Apple is on your left almost immediately.

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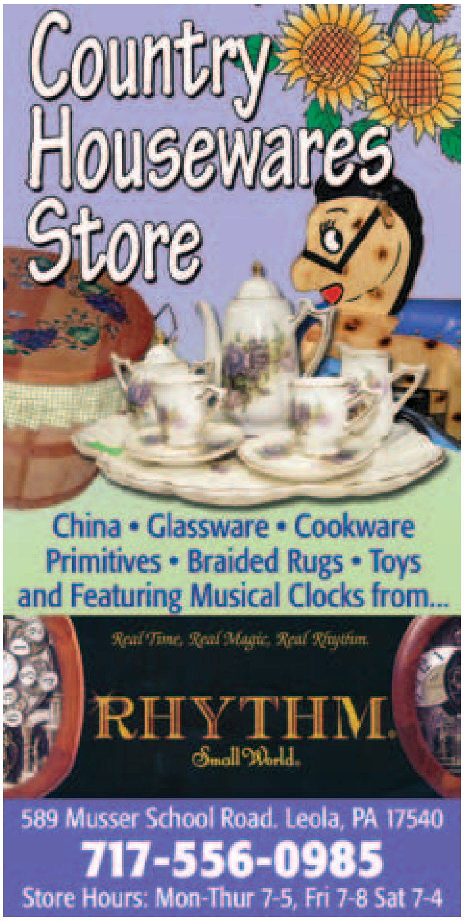
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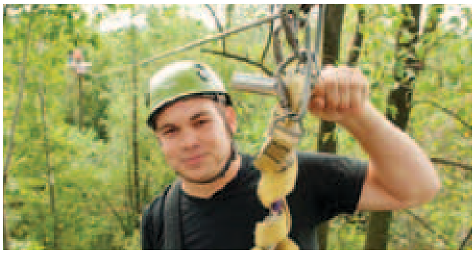
Be Adventurous in Amish Country, discover the Zip Line Canopy Tour at Refreshing Mountain Camp.

Shady Maple Complex Shines Ever-Bright!

by Clinton Martin

There's always been something special about Shady Maple. Although it's big to be sure, there's nothing "complex" about this Complex. I wanted to highlight a couple of my favorite Shady Maple haunts. It wasn't easy choosing just three, but here goes...

Good's Store

While this store may define dictionary definitions for the word "good," such as bountiful, agreeable, attractive and considerable, it's called "Good's" simply because that's the founder's last name. And after 50 years, locals and visitors alike know the name does indeed describe the shopping experience.

The family has even grown the business to include three other locations in addition to the flagship Shady Maple store.

Good's Store carries clothing for the entire family including hats and plain suits for the Amish and Plain comunity, plus brand names like Carhartt, Wolverine, Dickies, and Skechers. Then there's Kitchenware, Giftware, Toys, Fabric, Home Living, Hardware, Lawn and Garden, and crafter's supplies such as thread, batting, and fabrics. A variety of Quilt Kits are also available at many skill levels.

Stop in today and experience Good Country Shopping at Good Family Prices.

Martin's Trailside Express

While Martin's Trailside Express has been open to the public since 1998, the story of this convenient quick stop for food, fuel, and a shine goes back a number of years. The company's patriarch, Earl Martin, had originally allowed a few close neighbors to come and purchase gasoline from his trucking company at a lower bulk rate. New regulations for underground tanks gave him the incentive to expand his location and open a retail gas station type facility.

Today, it's much more than just a place to top off the tank. Martin's has all the necessary trappings to refresh your automobile, from a wash to your basic essentials such as oil and windshield washer fluid, to those little niggling "wish-I-hads" like chrome goodies, CB accessories and much, much more!

If you need a personal fuel up, Martin's stocks a coffee island of Baronet brand beverages, plus a huge assortment of snacks, sweets and sides. Better still, when the friendly staff at Martin's tie on an apron and fire up the grill to make you a delicious burger to-order, fry up some kickin' chicken, or prepare a delicious sandwich, you know you'll soon be primed to hit the road again in style. They are a great stop for breakfast, lunch, dinner or snack-time! Also try their soft ice cream, flavor-burst, shakes and "razzles."

Yes, Martin's Trailside Express is a truck stop, but trust me, you'll find the experience goes far beyond simply moving the needle from E to F!

Shady Maple Smorgasbord

Shady Maple Smorgasbord is arguably the most famous of the all-you-care-to-eat restaurants in Amish Country. Interestingly enough however, the namesake restaurant of the property near Blue Ball was not the seed that grew to be the mighty complex it is today.

That honor belongs to the Shady Maple Farm Market, a simple roadside stand at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Z. Martin, parents of current owners, Miriam and Marvin Weaver. The Martin's called their produce stand "Shady Maple," as it was situated directly underneath a towering tree. But they soon outgrew their roadside surroundings. With every addition to the market, more locals and visitors were finding their way and filling their baskets. Today it's the largest grocery market in Lancaster County, in both size and selection. You probably don't often visit grocery outlets when on vacation, but you owe it to yourself to set foot in Shady Maple's foyer and have your idea of the super market forever altered.

Of course, the restaurant was a natural evolution of operating a market that specialized in fresh country meats, just-off-the-boat seafood selections, and a produce department seemingly as big as the farms supplying it. Thus, Amish Country's must-try gastronomic "event" is today the Shady Maple Smorgasbord where unending delicious selections are displayed in steaming trays arrayed along "bars" for you to peruse at your leisure.

The sense of being in Amish Country is very real, as the food options reflect the surrounding countryside, from a dozen ways to prepare corn to a hot batch of chipped beef gravy to pour over oven-fresh buttermilk biscuits. Suffice it to say there is an amazing variety along the 200-plus feet of buffets. And each night at the Smorgasbord sports an additional theme with the chefs' take on seafood, steaks, chops, and ribs. Hungry yet?

Believe me, whether Amish Country is your destination, or you're just passing through, Shady Maple is a great way to spend a few hours, whatever the season, whatever the reason!

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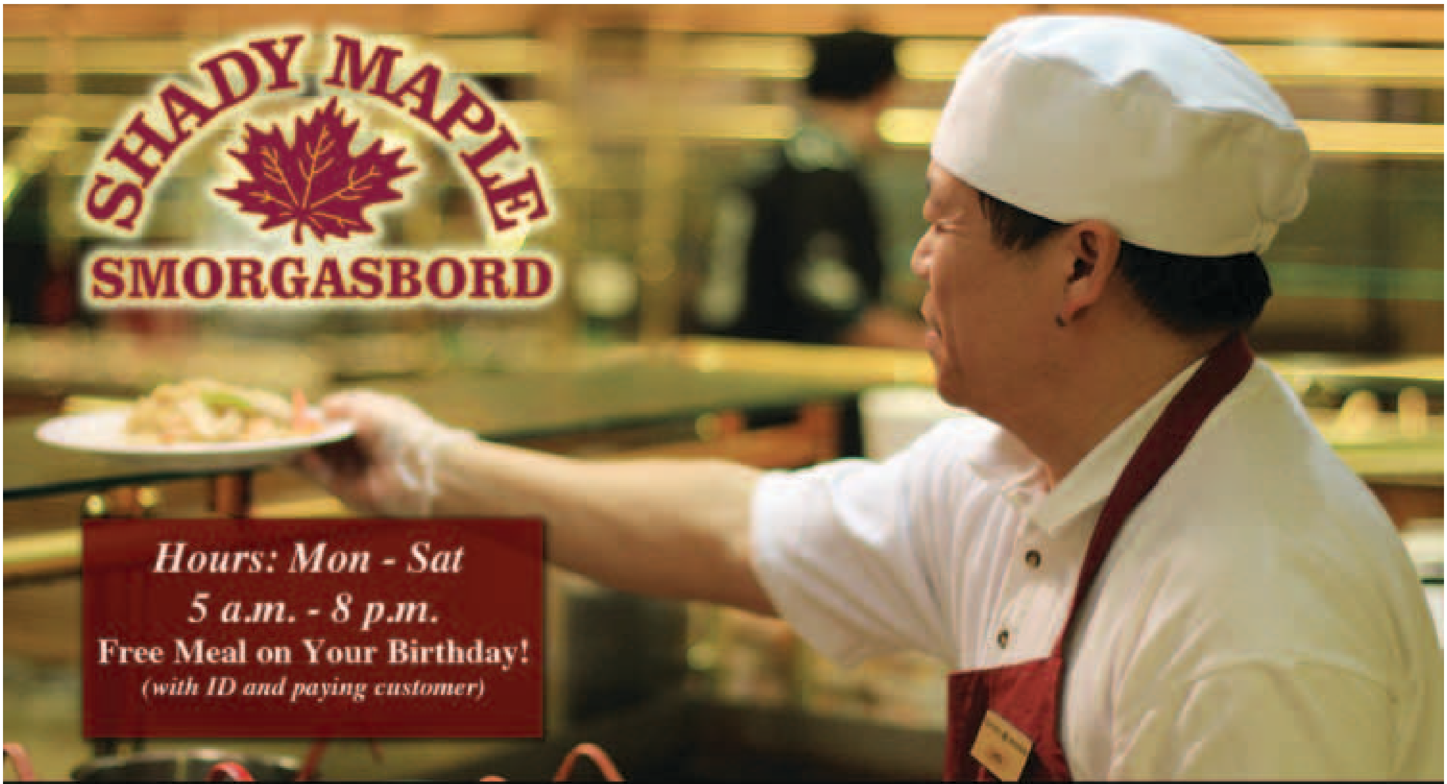

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13 Years Strong!

Visitors to Lancaster County love to experience the serenity of days gone by.

Part of this experience includes the delicious foods of the area and the handcrafted products of furniture artisans, including the still very much in demand Amish furniture.

One place that offers both is the world famous Shady Maple complex.

When Shady Maple Smorgasbord moved into a larger building across the parking lot a decade ago, the former restaurant building became home to one of the largest and best furniture stores in the area, Country Home Furniture.

The store is now celebrating its 13th anniversary in business.

According to management, "We like to think we're helping to preserve a little piece of America's furniture making history. Our craftsmen are steeped in tradition. They deeply care about their work."

On two floors and 30,000 square feet of selling space in their retail store, you will find eight manufacturers of American-made sofas and recliners, made in North Carolina, Ohio and Mississippi, in addition to over 30 manufacturers of solid wood dining, bedroom, office, occasional and entertainment… and the area's largest selection of Amish furniture.

The hardwood pieces come from American handcrafters and Amish builders in Ohio, Indiana and right here in Lancaster County.

With hundreds of stylish products in traditional, transitional, modern and country looks on the floor, there is something for everyone.

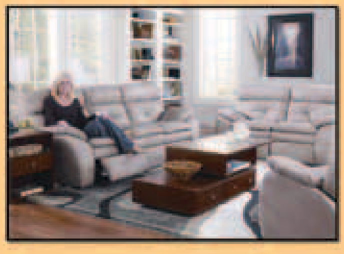
Unlike other stores where your only choices are what you see, at Country Home Furniture, you can have a hand in every facet of your design. That's the beauty of shopping there.

Customers love the flexibility of having a piece made for them by selecting the wood, stain, hardware and fabric.

If beautiful, quality, brand new, solid wood, American handcrafted furniture are important to you, then you owe it to yourself to explore Country Home Furniture. As they like to say, it's "worth the drive to the countryside" to come see the craftsmanship first hand, then enjoy your meal at Shady Maple Smorgasbord - two great things that make Lancaster County famous.

Country Home Furniture is open Monday and Friday 10-7, Tuesday through Thursday 10-5, and Saturdays 9-5. The entire complex at Shady Maple is closed on Sundays.

For more information, call 717-354-2329, go online to www.chfs1.com or email sales@chfs1.com.
GPS address is 1352 Main Street, East Earl Township, PA.



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Confessions of an Amish Country Camper...Lake In Wood Camp Resort

by Clinton Martin

Camping can mean many things to many people. Tents only? Cabins more your style? Can't leave home without a luxury RV? It's all camping – according to how you define "roughing it." At Lake-In-Wood Camp Resort campers of all sorts are welcome, including those who consider camping taking over a pirate lair or sleeping in a bona fide London double-decker bus for that matter. Yes, you can say Lake In Wood has some over-the-top unique rentals available!

But, I must admit I've stayed at Lake In Wood many times, and have never felt the need to venture outside its boundaries. There is just so much to see and do right at the resort. Fishing, boating, hiking, fitness trails, mini golf, pitch and putt, quoits, volleyball, basketball, shuffleboard, swimming – and that's just the beginning. The grand, restored pipe organ (it really plays) is alone worth a stay at Lake In Wood.

Make your reservation today by calling 717-445-5525 or by visiting LakeInWoodCampground.com.

Picture This - Your Photo Published in Amish Country News. See details on page 47. Whether you capture the beauty of a freshly plowed field, or a lavish, elegant bed and breakfast like the Silverstone Inn & Suites (shown here) send us your best shot of Amish Country for a chance to win exciting prizes.

The Amish

Donald B. Kraybill, Karen M. Johnson-Weiner, and Steven M. Nolt

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—Suzanne Woods Fisher, author of Amish fiction and host of *Amish Wisdom*

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Amish Country News **June Events Sampler**

Now Through June 29
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June 7, 8
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Living Waters Theatre

June 15-23
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June 21, 22, 23
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Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire

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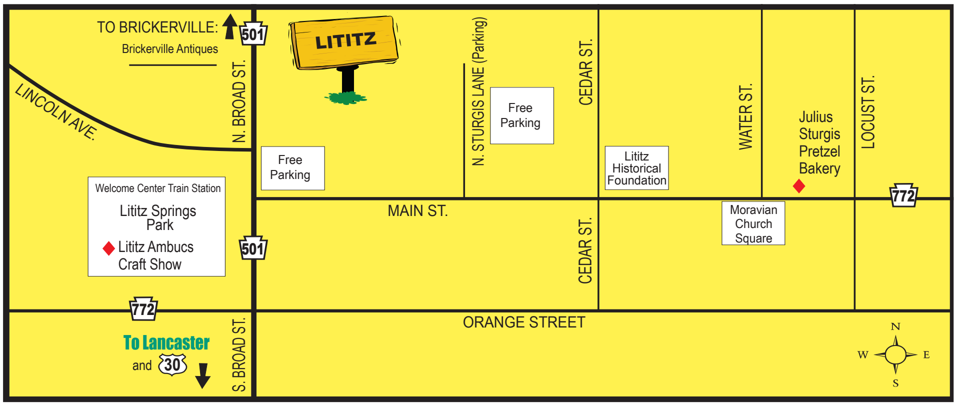

There really is no place quite like Lititz, and visitors should plan time there while in Amish Country.

The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom in the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with settlements in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In 1755 the town actually took the name Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European reformers had taken refuge in the 15th century.

Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz --- Julius Sturgis. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time.

Just recently, Lititz won Budget Travel's 2013 "Coolest Small Town in America" competition.

Don't Miss the Big Annual Ambucs Craft Show in Small-Town Lititz on June 8, 2013.

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From Farm to Antique Table at Renninger's Antique Market

by Clinton Martin

In the mid-1960's Adamstown began to attract antique and collectible dealers along with a consistent growing number of visitors. The biggest and most famous antique market in Adamstown (and for many 100s of miles around), Renninger's Antique Market had actually been there for years prior – but, as a farm market.

Renninger's manager, Terry Heilman, started offering space to antique dealers during the winter months, when local farms were without produce to sell. The Renninger family recognized a great idea when they saw one, and soon encouraged Heilman to convert the farm market into a year-round antique and collectible mall.

Today, Renninger's Antique Market includes both an indoor and outdoor section, with 375 dealers inside and another 400 or so outside. Renninger's is open every Sunday, year-round. See Renningers.com or call 717-336-2177 for further information. Renninger's is easy to find, along Route 272, just west of the intersection of Routes 272 and 897. Plan to spend some time there!

Lancaster's ONLY Officially Designated Heritage Tour

Amish Visit-In-Person Tours

AUTHENTIC LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

The Personal Encounter So Many Seek...
But So Few Experience! Limited to 14 People

On the Farm Visit an Amish farm at milking time

At Work Talk with an Amish craftsman

At Home Visit with Amish at home

V.I.P. stands for "Visit In Person," for you will have the unique opportunity to meet three of our Amish neighbors. Traveling in a comfortable shuttle bus, this exclusive tour is limited to 14 people to allow more personal contact, as we visit the Amish on the farm, at work, and at home.

Stop 1: Amish Farm at Milking Time. Observe the milking process. Discover "Amish electricity" as you learn that the Amish do not milk cows by hand.

Stop 2: Amish "Cottage Industry." As land for farming shrinks, more Amish turn to home businesses to balance work and family. We may visit a painted gourd maker, blacksmith, carpet-loom shop, or soap-maker for a personal talk and presentation.

Stop 3: Visit An Amish Home. We'll go to the home of one of our Amish neighbors for friendly conversation...a chance to sit, chat, and visit the Amish way. It's not surprising that strangers soon become friends.

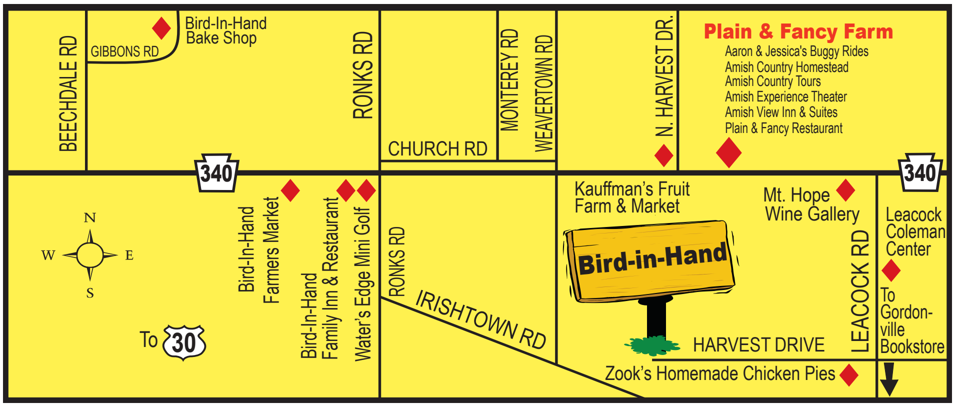
Tours from the Amish Experience Theater at Plain & Fancy Farm RT 340, between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse.

Departs 5:00PM Monday - Friday
June 10 through October

Advance Reservations Recommended

Call: 717-768-8400, Ext.210 Online: AmishExperience.com
In Person: The Amish Experience Theater
3121 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505

Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand



Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoneers were poorly educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched."

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries.

250,000

Number of pretzels twisted by hand every year at Intercourse Pretzel Factory

Beverly Lewis'
The Confession
Musical

Mar. 27-Aug. 24

Back by popular demand, the hit musical adaptation of *New York Times* bestselling author Beverly Lewis' Amish trilogy! Blending foot-stomping music with heartfelt ballads, it pulls its uplifting story line, soaring melodies and inspiring lyrics from characters she introduced in *The Shunning*, *The Confession* and *The Reckoning*.

Tickets $33

Lunch and dinner packages available

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Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & STAGE

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(717) 768-1500
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$2 Off Any Adult Dinner Smorgasbord

Mon.-Thurs. Nights Only, 4-7:30 pm

Not valid with any other offer or discount.
Limit 2 adults per coupon. Expires July 1, 2013.

Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord

ACN

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...Where All We Make is The "Riehl" Deal

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Come Visit Us: Monday - Saturday 8am-5pm, Evenings by Chance or Appointment, Closed Sundays

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Apples, Peaches and Pears All Taste Better at...Kauffman's Fruit Farm

by Clinton Martin

Known locally as the "Bird-in-Hand Brand," the Kauffman family first tilled the soil west of Intercourse and planted fruit trees in soil seemingly perfect for the undertaking back in 1915. Nearly 100 years later, the family business has expanded with many acres of fruit trees stretching out along the scenic cultural byway of Route 340.

It is famous for its delicious, crisp apples (and irresistible Apple Cider). Not to be ignored are its equally satisfying peaches, pears, and other fruits that flourish in this microcosm of Amish Country farming.

Alongside their orchard-fresh fruits, Kauffman's Store at the corner of RT 340 and North Harvest Road sells a variety of local produce, honey, pickles, relishes, jams, and jellies, and fresh grocery staples. Halfway between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse, Kauffman's is open daily except Sundays. Call 717-768-7112 or see KauffmansFruitFarm.com for more information.

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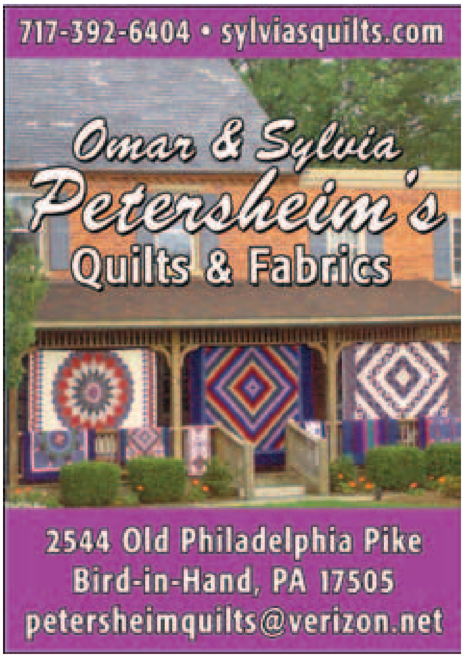
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Family Style Dining

Our traditional all you can eat family style dining is our most popular dining option. Guests are seated at large tables, often with other restaurant guests and all the food is brought to the table by our experienced and friendly servers.

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Our menu dining option is perfect for guests with a smaller appetite who would like to dine at individual tables. In addition to all the Pennsylvania Dutch favorites, our menu features fresh-made soups, garden-fresh salads and made-to-order sandwiches.

Take-Out

Good 'N Plenty's takeout program is ideal for busy people who want a delicious meal in a hurry. Place your take out order and we will have a tasty meal waiting for you.

Stop By Our Bakery & Gift Shop

Our world famous Good 'N Plenty bakery, located on the lower level, is filled with traditional PA Dutch favorites, seasonal treats and award-winning delights. Customers near and far comment on the incredible variety available at the Good 'N Plenty Gift Shop with something for everyone!

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IS THERE A MAFIA? – AMISH FARMLANDS • "WITNESS" MOVIE • VISIT-IN-PERSON

Experience the Amish!

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Is There A Mafia? – Amish Farmlands Tour

Journey along back country roads, deep into the Amish Farmlands to discover sights rarely seen by visitors to Amish Country. Under the watchful eye of your guide, you'll gain insights into the "how" and "why" of an everchanging culture, and see at-the-moment activities of the Amish at work and at play as we debunk the "untruths, myths and misconceptions" portrayed on the blockbuster Discover Channel "reality" series, The Amish Mafia, filmed in Lancaster County PA's Amish Country.

Duration: 1 1/2 hours.
Mon-Sat, 10am, 12pm, 2pm & 4pm. Sun 10am, 12pm & 2pm.

"Witness" Movie Tour

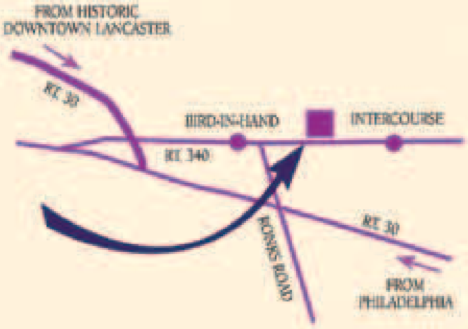
Harrison Ford in the movie WITNESS lived as an Amishman on this Amish farm. Our exclusive tour is your only chance to visit the farm, hear legendary tales of the filming, and take photos inside the barn and summer kitchen of this picturesque property seen on movie screens by millions. Marvel at the historic covered bridges we cross making our way through unexplored parts of Amish Country.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours.
Sat Only 4:30pm.

Visit-in-Person Tour

Rare is the opportunity to meet with Amish families willing to share their traditions and beliefs with you. In a group whose size is never more than 14, this is the only Amish Tour to be designated an official "Heritage Tour" by the County. Visit an Amish farm at milking time, stop at a Cottage Industry, and finally gather round a living room in an Amish home for an informal conversation with the family.

Duration: 3 hours
June 10-October
Mon-Fri, 5pm.



All tours are in the comfort of our 14-passenger touring shuttles for the best up close and personal experience.
Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended

the Amish Experience
at Plain & Fancy Farm

Purchase advance tickets:
(717) 768-8400 Ext.210
AmishExperience.com

3121 Old Philadelphia Pike
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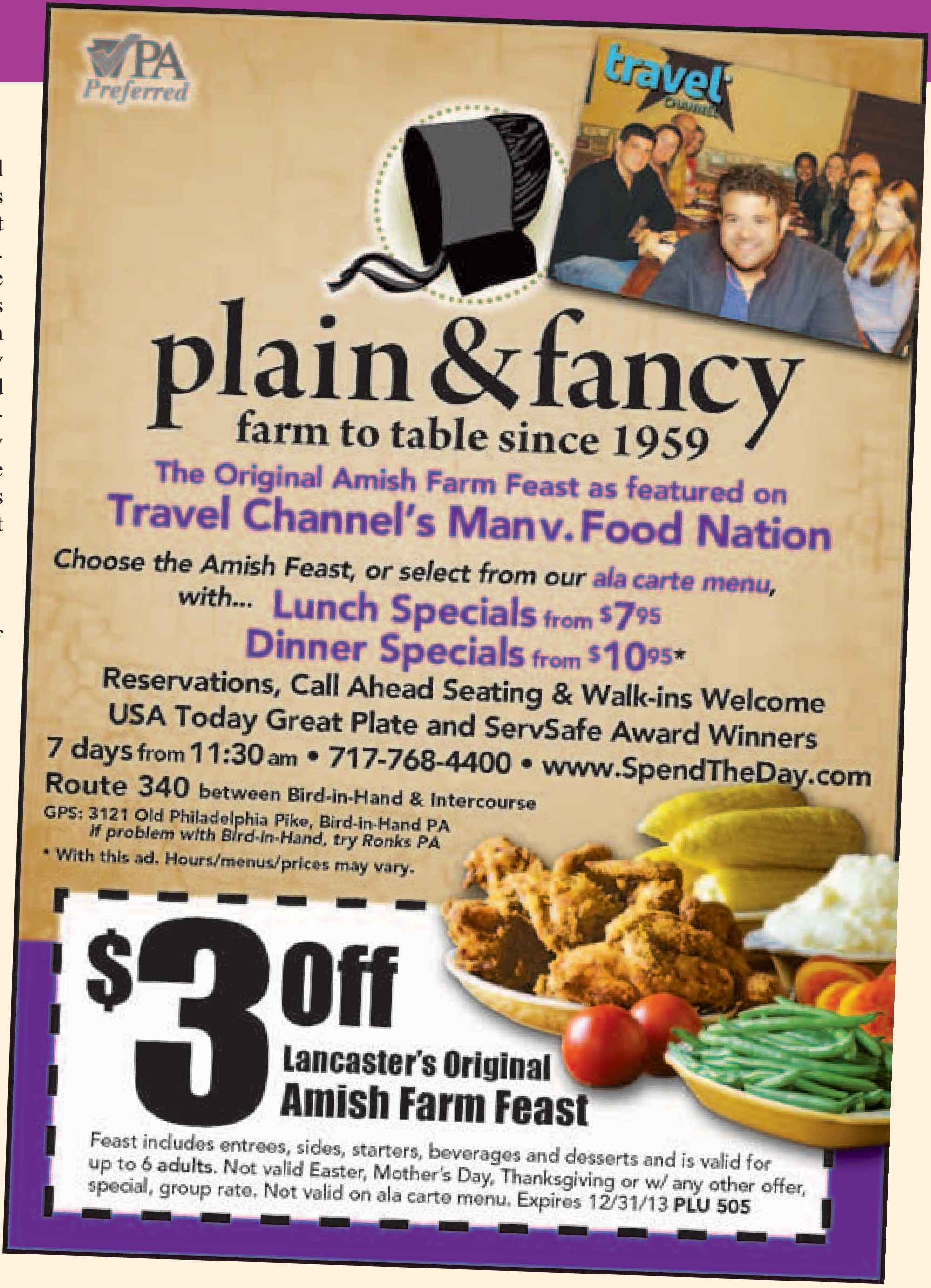
$2.00 OFF

Regularly priced adult Is There a Mafia? - Amish Farmlands Tour only. Valid up to six adults. Not valid with other discounts or packages. Expires 6/30/13. ACN J

Plain & Fancy — Farm to Table Since 1959



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The Original Amish Farm Feast as featured on

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$3 Off

Lancaster's Original Amish Farm Feast

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Where It All Began

Over 50 years ago, Plain & Fancy Farm opened to provide delicious, authentic Amish meals to visitors from all over the world, the first family-style restaurant in Lancaster County. Since then, Plain & Fancy Farm has become not only a PA Dutch culinary delight, but has also added fun and interesting attractions such as the Amish Experience, Amish Country Tours, the Amish Country Homestead, and Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides. The on-site Country Store offers excellent country shopping, and the newest addition to the property, Amish View Inn & Suites, welcomes visitors with luxurious lodging amidst all that Plain & Fancy has to offer.

A Lancaster Original

Amos, Ben, Manny and Elmer are some of the Amish farmers who supply Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant with the farm-fresh produce it serves on a daily basis. Depending on the season, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, cabbage, broccoli, squash, peppers and onions are all sourced from farms within a horse-and-buggy's drive. These neighbors, and the neighbors before them, have helped Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant go "from farm to table" for over 50 years. The restaurant is AAA recommended, a PA Preferred and ServSafe award winner, and the Pennsylvania recipient of USA Today's Great Plate Award.

The Amish Farm Feast

Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant is best known as Lancaster County's original family-style restaurant. The all-you-can-eat Amish Farm Feast includes your entrees, side dishes, starters, desserts and beverages. Enjoy fried chicken, roast beef, chicken pot pie, baked sausage, real mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, green and yellow string beans, dried sweet corn, chow chow, cole slaw, raisin bread, rolls and apple butter, lemonade, iced tea, hot tea, coffee, sour cream apple crumb pie, shoofly pie and vanilla ice cream. It was this very meal that drew Man Vs. Food's Adam Richman to Amish Country, who went behind the scenes in the Plain & Fancy kitchen for one of his popular show's episodes.

The New "ala carte" Menu

The restaurant also offers a new ala carte menu featuring mouth-watering appetizers, signature soups and salads, charbroiled burgers and sandwiches, and made-from-scratch entrees and platters. The ala carte menu is also a great value with daily specials starting at $10 or less.

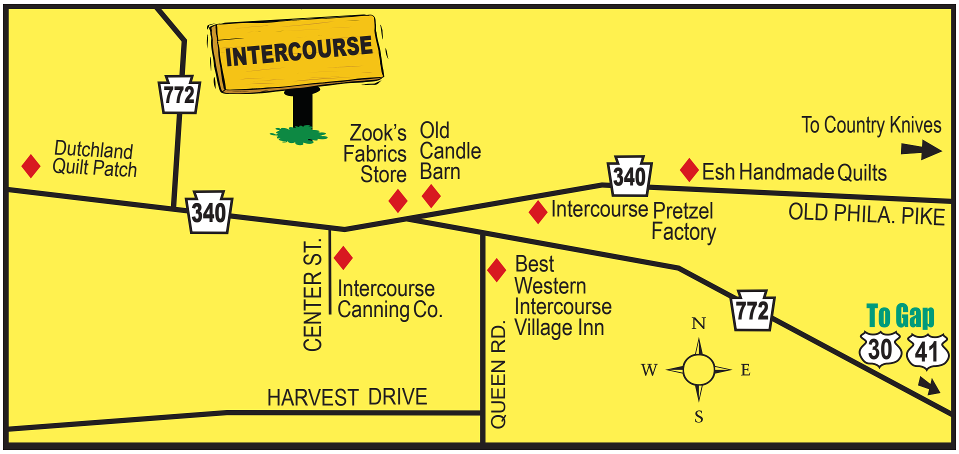
The Country Store

Find books, DVDs, candles, souvenirs and local handcrafts, and more. Explore The Country Store's collection of traditional Amish clothing, straw hats, bonnets, toys and dolls, and discover new treasures to adorn your kitchen and home. You'll find seasonal items as well as Christmas decorations, available year round. The store also features Kauffman's Fruit Farm jams and jellies, bakery fresh items from Miller's Bakery, and Plain & Fancy chow chow and apple butter.

AmishView Inn & Suites

While you're at Plain & Fancy Farm, you're invited to stroll up and visit AmishView Inn & Suites, a classically beautiful hotel that features elegant accommodations and incredible views. If time permits, a front desk representative can provide you with a quick tour of the hotel. The indoor pool, fitness center, arcade, whirlpools and fireplaces make AmishView perfect for an intimate getaway, family vacation, or corporate retreat. Complimentary hot country breakfast, wireless internet, HBO, DVD players, special amenities and kitchenettes come with every room.

Welcome to Intercourse PA



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on just one simple thing --- its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit of the movie "Witness." For years people have postmarked “Intercourse” on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name, but that which we find most plausible follows.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took “Cross Keys” as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising “151 handsome building lots of $250 each to be drawn for by number.” Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village.

Over time, Brungard’s scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town’s name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

1899 OLDE MILL RESTAURANT

A Taste of Amish Country!

Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Monday – Saturday, 6 am – 8 pm

$1 off BREAKFAST or $2 off LUNCH or DINNER

Valid up to four people in the same party. May not be combined with other offers. Expires 12/30/13.

Located on the grounds of the Best Western Intercourse Village Inn, in the heart of the Village of Intercourse. Guests enjoy free breakfast in our restaurant.

Route 772, Intercourse, PA 17534 | 717-768-3637
www.AmishCountryInns.com

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as “a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats.” When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While “many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus

The Old Candle Barn

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fares." Enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for $6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires!

Today Intercourse has been recognized as a "foodie" town by the PA Dutch Visitor's Bureau. You'll soon discover why walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must-visit for everyone.

19,000
Guests who saw "The Confession" at Bird-in-Hand Restaurant & Stage last year.

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Specify quantity and size: small, medium, large, x-large, xx-large, or xxx-large.

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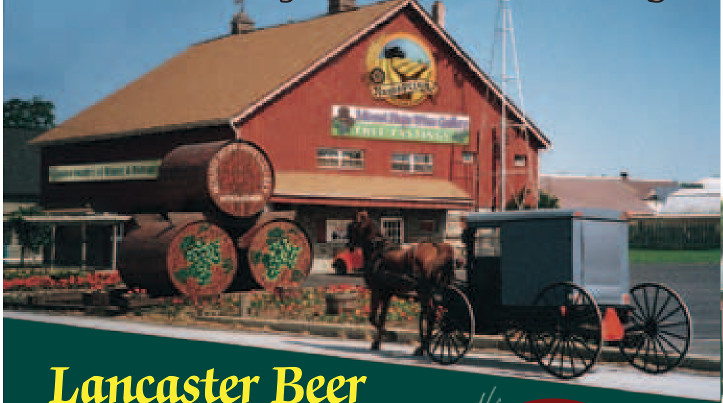

Lancaster Beer & Wine Gallery

The best in craft-brewed beers, light fare and award-winning wines, featuring a taste to satisfy every palate.

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Visit the Second Floor Barn Café

- Rumspringa on Draft and Take-Home Bottles & Growlers
- Traditional Smoked Meat BBQ
- Mount Hope Wines by the Glass
- Beer Samplers and Wine Flights
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- Pennsylvania Dutch Signature Desserts

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Intercourse, PA

Complimentary Wine Tasting Daily

Celebrate Fine Wine

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The Wine Shop features daily complimentary tastings of award-winning Pennsylvania wine by trained, informative staff. Currently, we offer more than two dozen varieties of wine sampled in our Carriage House Wine Shop and on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. While visiting, shop the extensive selection of event merchandise, wine accessories, kitchenware and gourmet food items.

Featured Wine of the Month: Mount Hope Blackberry Wine $10.95 (Reg. $12.95)

FREE RUMSPRINGA SAMPLE GLASS with a Beer Sampler Purchase. Present this ad at the Barn Cafe when you purchase a Rumspringa beer sampler and you will receive a complimentary sample glass to remember your tasting experience. Not valid with any other offer. Offer valid only for those 21 years of age or older and while supplies last. Offer expires 6/30/2013.

Present this ad when you sample at our tasting counter and you can take home a memento of your visit: our exclusive Mount Hope wine tasting glass for only $2.00 (a $3.95 retail value). One glass per customer. Offer valid only for those 21 years of age or older and while supplies last. Offer expires 6/30/2013.

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Lancaster-Gallery.com

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Limit one coupon per family. Cannot be combined with any other offer. May not be used on sale items and not valid on mail orders. Offer ends 6/30/13.

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717-768-0156
IntercourseCanning.com
NEW LOCATION!

PLAIN FAME by Sarah Price: A Review

by Clinton Martin

America enjoys a good love story – just look at the most popular books, movies, and music over the past 50 years or so. I'm no different, so when I was given the opportunity to read author Sarah Price's latest novel, book one of a new series, I jumped at the chance. Who cares if I'm not the assumed demographic for a romance novel, and an Amish romance novel at that? Read what you like, I say!

So, I picked up, and finished the same day, PLAIN FAME. I just couldn't put it down. The setting was unexpected, New York City, and the first character we meet equally intriguing, a music mogul with international celebrity status. An Amish romance novel that begins in NYC following an A-list Hollywood-type? No picturesque Amish farm? No tightly-woven strands of hair under a crisp white bonnet?

I could tell this was going to be a unique take on a hugely popular genre. Alejandro Diaz, better known to the fictional world of this book as the famous singer “Viper” is introduced with great fanfare. It quickly becomes clear he's got

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AMISH TECH: Plain Meets Modern

Part 2

by Brad Igou

The Amish mix of horse power and machine helps to keep farming a family affair.
PHOTO: Donna Gingrich

For the Amish, today's technology is more pervasive than ever, and it is increasingly difficult to anticipate the consequences, both good and bad. Here, I'd like to share some musings, both Amish and "English," that I find worth pondering in this regard.

One of my favorite Amish quotes concerned an early technology, the automobile. Now the Amish still refuse to own or drive cars, although they do hire "Amish taxi drivers" or ride the bus at times. Most of us ask why, thinking that the car would save travel time and allow for more activities at home and with family. In the January 1972 edition of FAMILY LIFE magazine, Elmo Stoll gave his answer…

By taking one single trip to town and figuring how much longer it would take by buggy, the above conclusion sounds reasonable. But the matter isn't that simple. Instead of spending less time on the road, people who switch to motorized transportation soon discover they are on the road more than before. Since it's easier to go to town, they tend to go oftener and for smaller needs. Also, they will soon begin to shop and visit places farther from home. It's just as easy to drive 50 miles as it used to be to drive five, and that's exactly what they do, and end up spending more time on the road than before.

The farming tradition faces its own struggles with progress. In the July 1968 issue, Ella A. Hostetler reflected on "making hay" and the allure of modern farm equipment over horses and mules in her poem titled "Modern Machinery."

Machines now mow the hay and crimp,
In order the curing time to skimp.
Next day comes the baler with thrower attached,
Which tosses the bales up into the racks.
A power-driven elevator stows it away.
Oh, this is the modern way to make hay.
All this big machinery makes the man
Want to farm all the acres he can.
Machines equipped with glaring lights
Enable him to work far into the nights.
Oh, he's so busy with the things of the sod
There's little time left to think about God;
Praise Him, there are still men tilling the soil
Who have time for God in their daily toil.

Thus the continuing challenge the Amish face is finding the balance between humans and hardware. In the words of another Amish writer, "We don't want to stop progress; we just want to slow it down." Yet, for many reasons, it seems apparent to many that without some change the Amish would become a dead society.

Amish have noted that the question is not just what or how you use a technology, but "what kind of person you become when you use it." One called electricity a "hotline to the modern world." Another frames the technology question as to whether it "brings people together or draws them apart?"

One of my favorite discussions on this subject is a piece by Howard Rheingold in the January 1999 WIRED magazine. There he argues that the Amish are actually quite sophisticated "because they have an elaborate system by which they evaluate the tools they use… Amish are very adaptive techno-selectives who devise technologies to fit their self-imposed limits." Modern Americans, on the other hand, unleash a new technology, put it to use and wait to see what happens. Rheingold asks whether technology and machines have become our servants, or is the opposite true? He suggests that we "mold technology in the service of community… If we decided that community comes first, how would we use our tools differently?"

Similarly, non-Amish writer Gene Logsdon sees many of us as "neo-Amish." Rather than a "community" to decide things, we each decide on our own what technologies we choose to use. Referring to the largely unwritten rules of the Amish called the "Ordnung," he suggests the internet needs some "ordnung" of its own, some rules that we can agree upon rather than "anything goes." He sees our challenge in terms of developing "a humane and ecological technology where people and nature need not be sacrificed to speed and greed."

Indeed, with the endless time-saving technologies at our disposal, it seems our way of life, in many ways, has become only more hectic. David Bender in the February 1993 FAMILY LIFE pondered his non-Amish neighbor's life and what it means to be "separate from the world" by defining the world he observes…

Modern technology has provided him with what might be called "the instant life." He has a late-model car at his doorstep for instant transportation to go anywhere he wants to go. His home is filled with all kinds of gadgets to make his life more "instant."

He has an instant oven to cook his meals in a few minutes. He has a television for instant diversion for his eyes. He has a gadget for nearly everything he wants done, from washing his dishes to brushing his teeth. He carries a cordless phone around with him for instant communication. Yes, life is faster and easier than years ago, but neighbor is more rushed than ever and has less leisure than before.

Then some time in midsummer, neighbor takes a few essentials and drives up north to where the road ends [to camp out]. Here he finds real peace and quiet. Neighbor calls this a vacation and says he must do this to rest and to get away from it all.

Thus we see that abstaining from worldly materialism or living a plain life will not necessarily bring separation from the world. For the world is a condition of the heart.

PLAIN FAME Book Review

(Continued from Page 41)

the bad-boy image down to a science, or would that be multi-million dollar business? At any rate, we make the connection to Amish Country when his limousine is in an unfortunate accident, hitting a pedestrian on the city's crowded streets. The victim just so happens to be a young Amish woman. The media goes crazy! Photos, tweets, Facebook postings all go viral.

While the news media tries maniacally to figure out who she is, as the reader we're given a hospital-bedside view into her world. We come to know her as Amanda Beiler, a fresh, pure, simple, yet beautiful country girl, inexperienced in the ways of the world.

Despite himself, Alejandro visits her at the hospital, and comes to care for another human being in a way he wouldn't have imagined. He simply couldn't help but notice and be intrigued by her innocent beauty.

During their extended time together at the hospital, she senses that he's different than any other "English" person she's ever met. He's disarming. Charming. Handsome. And with a personality that draws her in.

When she's able to leave the hospital, Alejandro offers to take her home. He realizes doing so will ignite yet another media storm, a continuing career builder for sure.

Yet, even while he convinces his skeptical manager that taking the Amish woman home to Lancaster County will be a good business move, he recognizes the growing sense within himself to escape the intrusive distractions of the paparazzi-laden circus in which he's lived for so long.

A week. That's what he ends up bargaining for with his people. So, indeed, do he and Amanda ride in his limousine back to Amanda's Lancaster County. When they pull up to Amanda's farm, you might expect Alejandro to be thanked and then politely sent on his way by terse Amish parents, concerned over the influences their

Continued on Page 45

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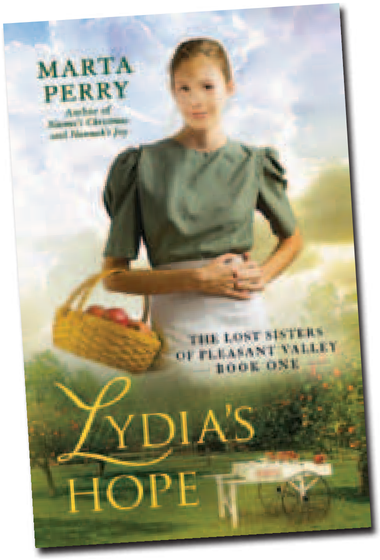
LYDIA'S HOPE - Book Review

by Dee Romito



After an accident, a very young Lydia Beachy had no memory of her birth parents. Lydia was raised by her aunt and uncle who never hid the fact that her parents had died...but they did keep a secret from her. While visiting her ailing Aunt Sara, Lydia finds out that she has two younger sisters.

Lydia is a married Amish woman with two small boys of her own. She is living in the family home, the very home in which she was born. With the help of an "English" friend she meets her younger sister, Chloe, who was adopted by their "English" Grandmother after the accident. Chloe was also very surprised to learn that she had sisters – and that they were Amish.

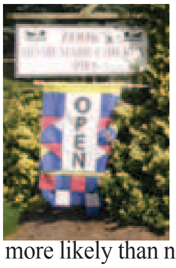
The youngest sister, Susana, was adopted by an Amish family and lives very near to Lydia. Will a reunion of the sisters be everything that Lydia dreamed of, or might it create a relationship beyond repair? And what secret is Lydia's husband, Adam, keeping from her?

LYDIA'S HOPE is the first Amish fiction book that I have read, and I have to say that I enjoyed it very much. I grew up in Amish Country, with Amish neighbors. They could have very well been the characters in Marta Perry's newest book.

For those who have been to Lancaster's Amish Country, you can imagine the lush farmlands and even hear the clip-clop of the horse and buggy in your mind as you turn the pages in Book One of THE LOST SISTERS OF PLEASANT VALLEY. I will certainly look forward to reading Book Two of this series when it becomes available.

Saying Welcome Home the Zook's Chicken Pie Way

by Clinton Martin



Eating turkey on Thanksgiving. Enjoying an Easter ham. Some special occasions simply call for the traditional. Saying "Welcome Home" in Amish Country is often such a special moment. In our family the dish of choice is more likely than not a Zook's Homemade Chicken Pie. How do you put one on your table?

First, go to Zook's at the intersection of Old Leacock Road and Harvest Drive. This is the one and only bakery location, so you are buying your pie direct from the hardworking Amish family that runs the busy store.

Second, take your pie home. Third, pop the pie in your oven. It won't take long until your whole household starts to swoon over the sensational aromas. Finally, serve the pie to your friends.

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Christmas, And All That Glitters Awaits at the...National Christmas Center

by Clinton Martin

One of the most poignant representations of Christmas, reprinted here from the collection at the National Christmas Center, puts into perspective the very special joy experienced on a memory-making, memory-jogging tour of Amish Country's "Christmasy" place. It is none other than the "Is Santa Real?" Letter to the Editor and the response, which remain to this day two of the most famous pieces ever written in the American press.

NEW YORK SUN Editorial - 1897

Is There a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun.

Little Virginia wrote:

Dear Editor, I am 8 years old.

~ Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

~ Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

~ Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

The NEW YORK SUN Editor, Francis Church, responded:

VIRGINIA, Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, VIRGINIA, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAs. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, VIRGINIA, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

And, thus was a grand moment in the history of Christmas celebrated. What a great story and one that I never tire of reading! The "VIRGINIA" exhibit, and oh so much more (believe me, this is one awesome place), all await you at the National Christmas Center in Paradise. Call 717-442-7950 or visit NationalChristmasCenter.com for hours, ticket prices, and directions.

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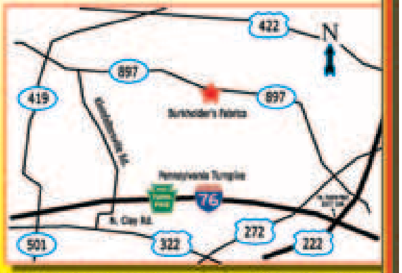

PLAIN FAME Book Review

(Continued from Page 43)

daughter must have been exposed to over the past few days. Instead, Alejandro is thanked generously, obviously having been forgiven for the accident which had injured their daughter. He's even invited to stay at the farm for a night or two.

He ends up staying for the entire seven days. He helps out around the farm, interacts with the family members, and even gets invited to church. This is a wonderfully entertaining part of the story, with humor, light fun, and emotional soul-searching all side-by-side.

And, while Alejandro and Amanda are in town he's recognized and a bit of a melee ensues. Then...to the moment we all knew was coming. Can they be together? Really?

At that, many elements of the story swell up, intertwine with an ending fully satisfying while becoming a cliff-hanger enticing us into Ms. Price's second novel in this series.

Read more at SarahPriceAuthor.com. When you pick up your copy of PLAIN FAME at your favorite bookseller and have given it a good read, write me at Clinton@amishnews.com. Let me know where you think the second book, PLAIN CHANGE, is headed. We'll compare notes!

Lancaster County Comedy Show... You Can't Help But Laugh

by Clinton Martin

Visiting Lancaster County is truly a "laughing matter" when you are experiencing the fun at the Lancaster County Comedy Show – where indeed, that is the goal! The brand new show, housed in the Living Waters Theatre on Route 896 in Strasburg – one of the area's original theatres – explores all the reasons there are to laugh, smile, chuckle, and even chortle in Amish Country.

The stars of the show, Jakey the Amish Boy, retired farmers Harold and Irene, clearly-not-from-around-here-Tiffany, and Ardie the Skunk all call Lancaster County home, and are happy to share their comical insights into life in Amish Country. Now, these guys are puppets and owe at least "some" of their talents to Ryan Bomgardner, Amish Country's own renowned ventriloquist.

Ryan & Friends have traveled and performed internationally in venues large and small, but these lush rolling fields will always be home to them, and they are happiest performing for visitors from all around the world right here in their own backyard.

The show incorporates witty parodies of famous songs, offers up great sketch-style bits, includes genuinely funny "Tourist Tips" on screen between sets, and finally offers a hilarious answer to the question, "What happens when you fly somewhere for a show, and the luggage carrying your puppets gets lost?"

At just over an hour in length, the show is easy to work into any itinerary, and show times are offered at convenient day-time options, so whether you are here for the day, the week, or live here year-round, you could easily fit this fun outing into your schedule.

Tickets are affordable, and can be purchased in advance online, or at the box office. Call 717-687-4263 or visit LancasterCountyComedyShow.com for details. For Living Waters Theatre, head south on RT 896 from RT 30 traveling towards Strasburg. The theatre is on the right, 1.5 miles on RT 896.

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Next Time, Stay Over! Country Inn of Lancaster

by Clinton Martin

It only takes one visit to Amish Country to realize you can't possibly experience it all in just one or two days. Stay over! Now what you do is up to you, but where to stay should be a simple choice, best made by following my recommendation.

Family-owned and locally operated, the Country Inn of Lancaster welcomes you in a truly memorable and unmistakably Amish Country fashion. With solid-wood handcrafted rocking chairs surrounding the hotel's broad wrap-around porch, the outside of the Inn evokes rustic country charm. Inside, the comfortable, plush furniture, plain and simple lighting, and cozy fireplace combine to provide a lobby that feels truly like a grand family room.

The staff focuses on a three-pronged approach to hospitality...Comfort, Cleanliness and Country Charm. Stories abound of the staff at Country Inn making guests feel special and appreciated. They're part of the reason that when the rooms are filled at the Martin residence, I never hesitate to make reservations at the Country Inn, smack dab in the middle of the action on RT 30. Call 877.393.3413 to book your own stay at the Country Inn.

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What's Coming Up In July 2013!

We could just as easily call this issue, "What CAN'T You Do In Amish Country?" From nationally recognized events to undiscovered hidden gems, we'll be featuring the amazing varieties of ways to spend rewarding days in Amish Country.

Deadline: **December 31st, 2013**

Calling All Photographers!

2013 Amish Country News Photo Contest

Ours is one of the most photographed areas in the world. With so much beauty and variety around us, it's no wonder! If you think you've got a great photo, why not send it to us? The winner will recieve free tour and attraction tickets. In addition, you will see your photo in the pages of Amish Country News! Other prizes will also go to the first, second, and third runners-up.

All submitted photos become the property of Amish Country News and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, in other publications, and/or for other promotional purposes.

Photos will be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.

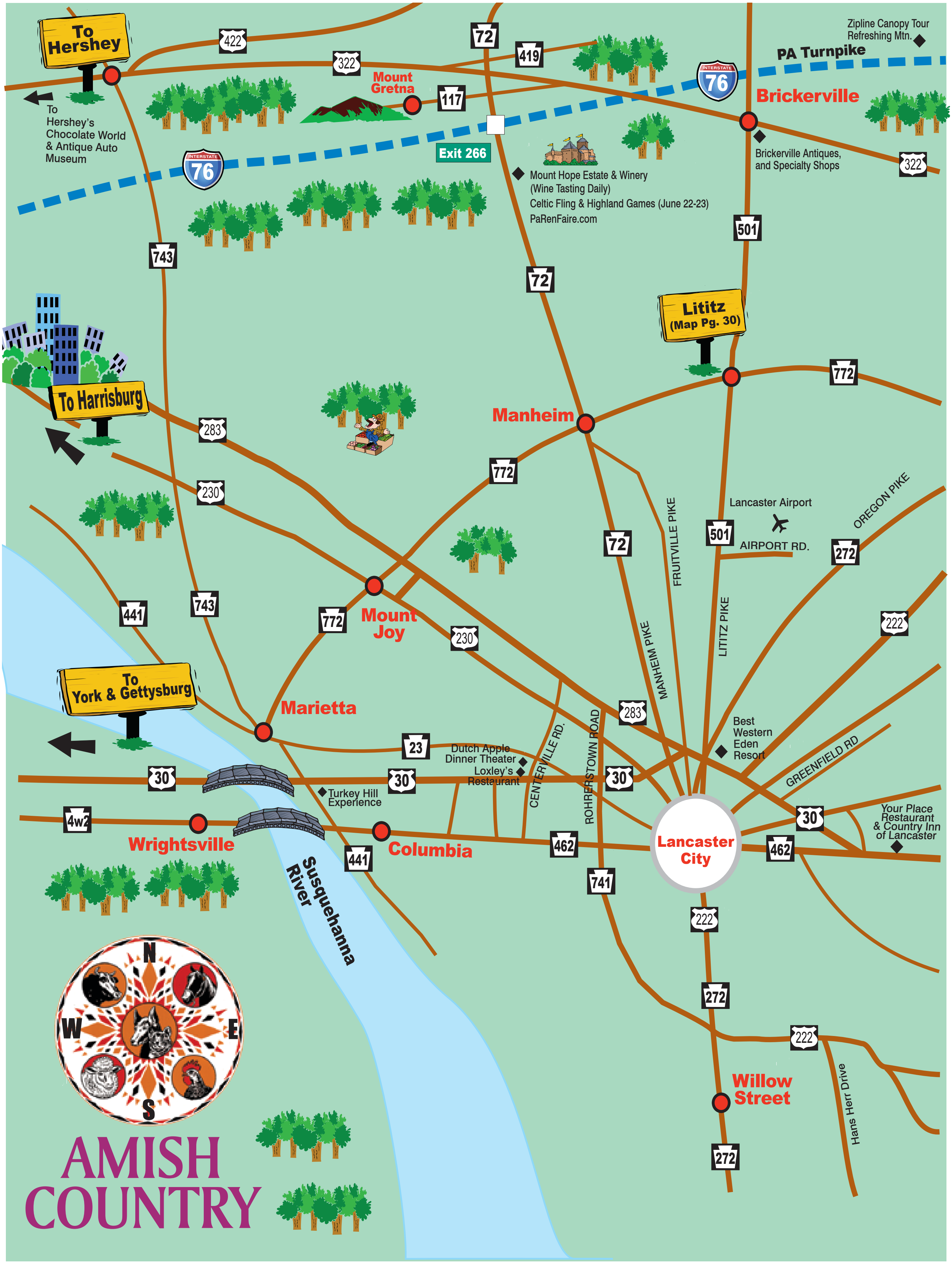
DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: December 31st, 2013

We will accept photos via email, and request that no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted, so pick your best! Each photo submitted should contain the name, address, phone # and email address of the photographer, so they can be contacted. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should be included.

To enter, send photos in high resolution (300 dpi+) in .jpg or .tiff format to: editor@amishnews.com (Please put "2013 photo contest" in the subject line)

Visit us online at www.AmishNews.com

where you'll find archived issues, Brad Igou's continuing Amish Series, recipes from dining issues and lots more!



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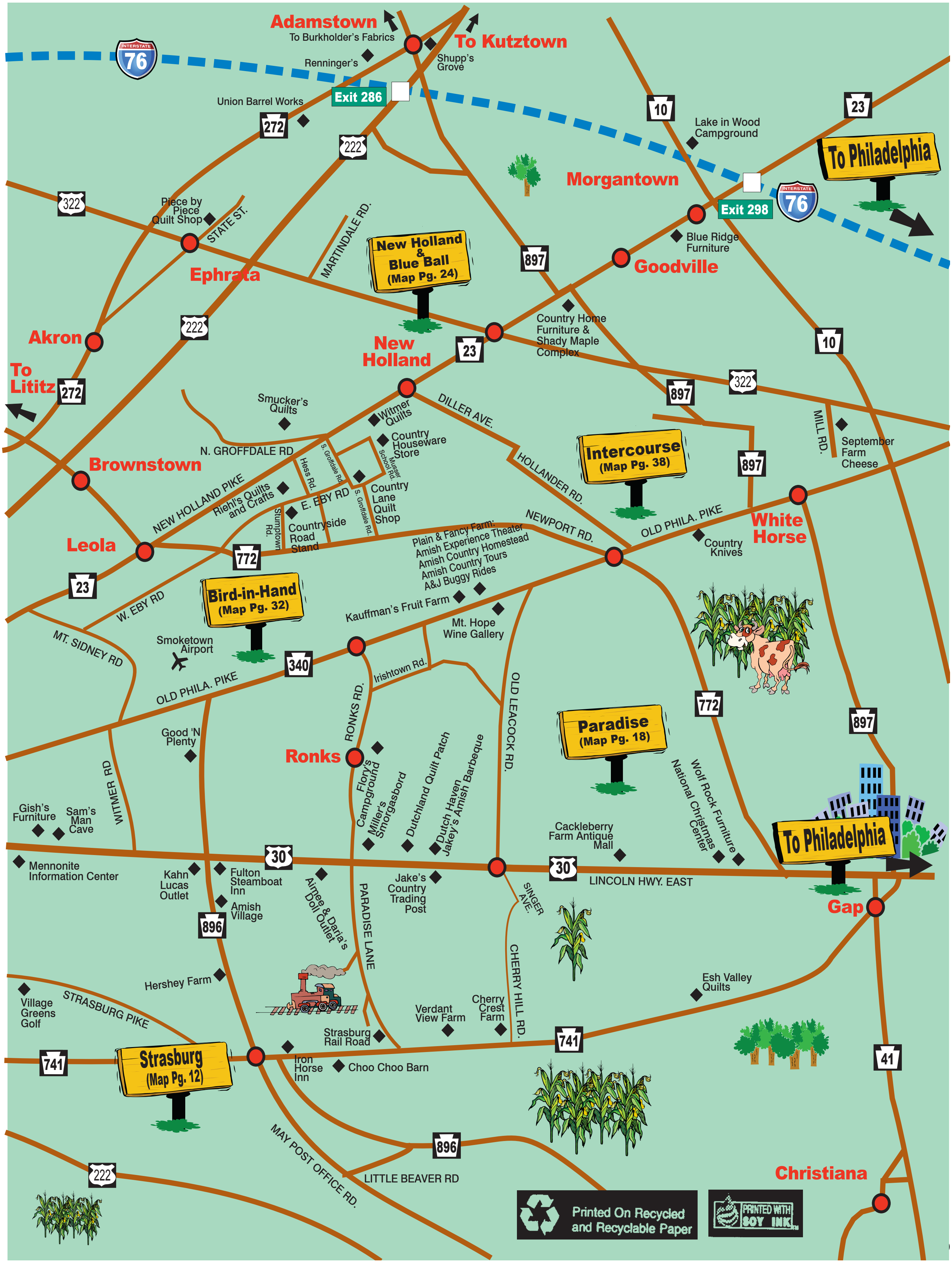

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PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

"A Journey with the Mafia"

by Brad Igou

Readers of our Spring issue learned that an "Amish Mafia Tour" had been conceived, based on, but obviously not affiliated in any way with the Discovery Channel TV series, the AMISH MAFIA. The intention was to dispel the endless untruths about Amish life here in Lancaster County depicted in the series.

The tour was the creation of the Amish Experience, the area's oldest tour and interpretative center. Its centerpiece was to take visitors to the Silverstone Inn & Suites property where many "locations" were magically created for the show. The Inn, not inconspicuously mentioned in the credits, was also used for the wedding scene at the end of "BREAKING AMISH" on TLC, another unfortunate Amish reality show.

It wasn't long before the Experience received a letter from the Senior Vice President of Litigation and Intellectual Property concerning "Infringement of Discovery's Rights." Perhaps to be clear who they were dealing with, the demanding letter noted that "Discovery Communications is one of the world's leading media and entertainment companies with services that reach more than 1.5 billion subscribers in over 180 countries."

Noticeably absent in Discovery's communiqué was the word "education"--- rather it was all about entertainment. There were also 30 logos of their different channels and businesses across the bottom of the page, including TLC, Animal Planet, etc. (Uh-oh, be afraid, very afraid.) It stated they owned a U.S Registration number for the mark AMISH MAFIA and further that with much time and money devoted to creating this mark, "it has become a distinctive symbol of Discovery's goodwill and a very valuable asset of the company."

I had to chuckle in a sad kind of way, for certainly Discovery has not created a great deal of goodwill among our Amish friends, although I had to concede their outrageous portrayal of our Amish community has clearly been great for their ratings. It went on to say that by using this name for the tour, it was likely to "mislead and confuse consumers into believing that Discovery endorses or is affiliated" with the Tour Company's activities. This was also a head-scratcher since "AMISH MAFIA Tour – Chust Nonsense!" was the tour's moniker. Although the name and the unmistakable disclaimer disavowing any association with the Discovery Channel obviously, at least to me, eliminated any confusion, the Experience was told that this was "inconsequential."

It seemed that if, as the show claims, there has been an organization called the Amish Mafia for several years, then no such combination of words could be trademarked. On the other hand, if the series were a complete fabrication produced purely for fame and fortune, then perhaps the law would allow copyright. However, in such case, instead of the pernicious diatribe (translated "nonsense") that we listen to at the beginning of each show, viewers might hear something like:

"The Amish Mafia is a creation of the Discovery Channel. The scenes and characters depicted in this series bear little resemblance to Amish life in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In fact, it would be highly unlikely to witness any of the events depicted in actual day-to-day life, as such events have been created for pure dramatic effect."

Obviously, no one owns the words "Mafia" or "Amish." Therefore, it appeared to the Tour Company that if it did not utilize the words in the same combination, while making it clear using "Mafia" by way of a question, all legalities regarding the tour's name should be put to rest.

While all this was going on, the folks at Silverstone Inn had apparently received their own letter from Hot Snakes Media, the company that films and produces AMISH MAFIA. It threatened to sue if the Inn allowed the Tour Company on their property. Now, anyone watching the series and driving by Silverstone would immediately recognize that Esther's house, Lebanon Levi's barn office and more were all filmed right there. Indeed, Inn guests couldn't help but observe the actors and the film crew in action.

It certainly appears that Discovery and Hot Snakes' ultimate goal was to shut down the tour. To be honest, I'm not really sure why they feel so threatened by the little Tour Company. In any case, in this chapter of the modern day David & Goliath story, Goliath and the giants won. The tour as originally conceived was scrapped.

However, buttressed by a comforting legal opinion, much of the original Mafia tour content was incorporated into the Tour Company's long-standing daily Farmlands Tour and re-christened: "Amish Farmlands Tour - Is There a Mafia?" In fact, apart from the context of an Amish Mafia, the Amish Experience has been covering much of the same information on its Farmlands Tour since 1959. A group version of the "Mafia" tour is also available.

Over the last few months, we have gathered all kinds of information on the cast and the show from viewers and people who live here. Much is widely available to anyone with an internet connection…from photos of Lebanon Levi's cruise to St. Thomas to the mug shots and criminal records of cast members. Levi's fund-raising appearance "as the character Lebanon Levi" at Lebanon County's Matthews Library on March 24th was covered by the media and filmed by the Hot Snakes TV crew for purposes unknown. Clearly, the "Amish Mafia" isn't so secretive any more. Heck, I was there, even shook Levi's hand and got his autograph. He seems like a real nice guy. By the way, how do we look in the photo?

We have, in the meantime, decided to compile much of what we have learned into a special supermarket-inspired tabloid edition of AMISH COUNTRY NEWS with the headline: "The Mafia Exposed." Pick one up at the Amish Experience box office at Plain and Fancy Farm on RT 340 between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse. Read all about the tour that never was, but just wouldn't go away!

Recently, Mose Gingerich, who grew up Amish and was featured in AMISH IN THE CITY (UPN, 2004) and AMISH AT THE ALTAR (National Geographic, 2010), felt compelled on his blog to weigh in on AMISH MAFIA. He tells us that the Amish "will be absolutely tarnished by this show and what it is portraying them to be," that both Amish and ex-Amish are "embarrassed and humiliated" by the way Amish faith and culture are portrayed, yet that the Amish "will never lift a finger against it to defend themselves."

It's true, unlike Discovery and Hot Snakes, the Amish do not have a battery of lawyers in charge of litigation and intellectual property. Nor is there an Amish Anti-Defamation League. While we don't see ourselves as "defenders of the Amish," we, along with the tour folks at the Amish Experience, are small voices out there eager and willing to call a farce a farce and to attempt to set the record straight when it comes to the Amish, whom we consider ourselves fortunate to be able to call our friends and neighbors.

Ultimately, we stand with the folks bringing you the "Amish Farmlands Tour - Is There a Mafia?" which gives you the facts and encourages you to reach your own conclusions. My bet is that you'll agree with Mose when he sums it all up, "So is there an Amish Mafia? ABSOLUTELY NOT."

Amen, Brother Mose, Amen!

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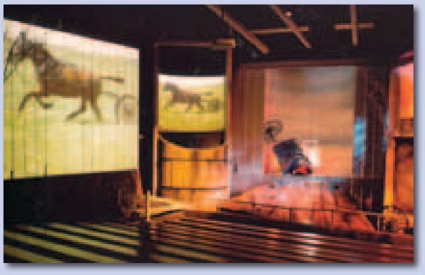

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